



THE INDEPENDENT

2,958

THURSDAY 11 APRIL 1996 40p

INSIDE TODAY'S NEW-LOOK SECTION TWO

The Fridge touches down

An American superhero in London

Woody Allen: has the mighty fallen?

Film

Winners and losers in the check-out wars

Living

Our beef is banned, our meat trade faces ruin, but new figures beg the question:

Where is the CJD epidemic?

CHARLES ARTHUR
Science Correspondent

Official figures reveal that the number of possible cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) in Britain this year do not justify the worldwide panic over beef. The new evidence emerged as British meat traders warned that their businesses were days away from collapse, and European vets refused to lift their ban.

The latest figures, obtained exclusively by the Independent, show that since the start of the year, 26 suspected cases of CJD have been referred to the Na-

tional CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh, which checks any possible case of the disease nationwide. In the past five years, only half the cases referred to the unit have been confirmed as CJD - implying that this year's total will be about 50 cases. That is in line with 1994, the highest total on record, when 52 people died of CJD, and well before the latest panic, said Dr Rob Will, the unit's head, yesterday. Forty-four people died in 1995.

The new evidence should counter fears about a possible link between eating BSE-infected meat and developing

CJD. Panic was first triggered last month when the Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, announced in the Commons that the Surveillance Unit was studying 10 cases. In the past two years, of a new strain of the disease among young adults. Dr Will said yesterday that the evidence so far did not support suggestions of an epidemic.

But the news may come too late to meat traders, who yesterday wrote to the Prime Minister, protesting that many of them faced imminent liquidation, and that "unless immediate action is taken, the [British] industry as a whole will plun-

met into irreversible decline". Thousands of jobs were at risk, they warned.

The International Meat Trade Association (IMTA) also accused the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) of seeming "not to understand, or not to care".

There was more bad news from Europe yesterday, as a meeting of senior European veterinary officers decided to retain the world export ban imposed last month on British beef products - even for products such as gelatine and tallow, used in sweets, pills and candles. Scientists last week confirmed

that these posed no risk to humans.

EU officials said it was clear that there was still a political need to maintain the ban, whatever the scientific reality.

"There was a quite strong body of opinion that it is still too early to support making any changes to the ban," said a British Government spokesman. "It is still felt that the ban has not been in force long enough to reassure consumers. MAFF called the decision 'bitterly disappointing' and vowed to continue fighting it."

Meanwhile, the European Commission is awaiting de-

tailed plans from the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, for a programme of selective slaughter of animals and herds which may have come in contact with BSE.

Mr Hogg has until the end of the month to produce his proposals - the earliest date for consideration of removing the beef ban entirely. Last night, government officials accepted with reluctance that a swift end to the ban was politically impossible.

However, the IMTA insisted that swift action was necessary to protect livelihoods and businesses. Its members have £35m

worth of stock which has been rendered unsaleable by the EU's ban, yet which is over-the-top fit for human consumption under British guidelines.

Sheila Gore, an independent statistical researcher for the Medical Research Council, said that the key to the CJD Unit's data would be what happened over the next 12 months. "Typically, if you are looking for an epidemic, you look to see how long it takes the number of cases to double." However, the low incidence of CJD - normally one per million each year - means that as few as four

cases of the new strain this year could indicate, statistically, that there was an epidemic of CJD under way.

Dr Will said, "Until two or three weeks ago we had only had 14 referrals of suspected cases, which is what we would expect. Since the publicity, there have been another 12 referrals, but it's easy to overinterpret that. In between, I had written to every neurologist in the country asking them to tell us about anything that looked like CJD. This can't be interpreted as suggesting an increase in the absolute numbers of people with CJD."

Labour to exploit rail chief's exit

PETER RODGERS
and COLIN BROWN

Labour yesterday seized on a decision by Roger Salmon, the official in charge of the sale of Britain's train services, to step down early as evidence of mounting disarray in the rail privatisation programme.

Mr Salmon's announcement that he is to leave in October without another job in sight, 13 months before his contract expires, came days ahead of the publication next Monday of the prospectus for the £1.8bn flotation of Railtrack.

His resignation was hailed by Labour as evidence that the Government's privatisation plans were "falling apart". Clare Short, Labour's transport spokeswoman, said: "The rats are leaving the sinking ship. I am not surprised. I am even pleased. It is another symptom that the process of privatisation is falling apart."

Labour is threatening to defeat the Government next Wednesday by forcing a vote in the Commons over the privatisation of British Rail.

There were suggestions in the City that Mr Salmon had not found it easy to deal with frictions with a succession of secretaries of state on the mechanics and timetable of the privatisation. One source said that while there had been no outright rows he might have stayed on longer if relations with the Government had been better.

Labour also believes that Mr Salmon was disheartened by the unpopularity of the job, and Ms Short claimed he was leaving before a Labour government implements its plans to abolish the franchise director's job. That threat will make it hard to recruit a senior successor.

Mr Salmon rejected suggestions of difficulties with the current Secretary of State for Transport and said "I get on extremely well with Sir George

[Young] ... I cannot remember a single hard word between us in the nine months since he was appointed."

He said the targets he had set himself had been achieved and "the ship is sailing very well, and very fast". By the autumn, preparations for completion of the sales would be at an advanced stage. It was appropriate for the long-term health of the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising to hand over to someone else, he added.

Mr Salmon, 50, confirmed that he had not found a new job and said he planned to take a holiday before deciding what to do. The announcement of his early departure, less than four years into his five-year term of office as director of passenger franchising, was forced on the Government because under the rules for share sales it will have to be disclosed in the prospectus.

Mr Salmon first told Sir George of his intention to leave last December. No successor has been found and the Government is to advertise the post and appoint headhunters to seek a replacement.

The public acknowledgement that he is leaving before the sales are complete could hardly have come at a worse time for the privatisation programme, because only two of the 25 train-operating franchises have so far been let and another two awarded subject to contract. By the time Mr Salmon leaves nearly half the franchises are still likely to be awaiting buyers.

A former merchant banker at NM Rothschild, Mr Salmon is thought to have private means which give him the income to take a career break without having a job to go to.

He said he would be willing to wait longer than October to ensure a smooth handover if the appointment of a successor could not be made in time. His replacement would have to be able to "stand up to the secretary of state as well as work with him".



Final act: An earthmover begins demolishing the gym at Dunblane Primary School where 16 children and their teacher were shot dead by Thomas Hamilton, who went on to take his own life, last month. Before demolition work began yesterday some of the bereaved parents were allowed their request to visit the gym one last time. Photograph: Ian Waldie: Reuter

Tory favour for Murdoch followed Heseltine lunch

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

The Government introduced a controversial amendment to the Broadcasting Bill lifting restrictions on Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, within two weeks of a lunch meeting between Mr Murdoch and Michael Heseltine.

A spokesman for the Deputy Prime Minister confirmed yesterday that Mr Heseltine had lunch with Mr Murdoch six weeks ago. It is believed they discussed an offer from Mr Murdoch to provide satellite dishes for every school in Britain, in return for government support over Mr Mur-

doch's plans to introduce digital satellite services in the UK. That would involve the launch of a new digital satellite, capable of providing a full range of televised programming.

The possibility of a backroom deal has angered Labour MPs and could spark renewed debate over the Government's new Bill, it emerged last night.

Last month, soon after the lunch, the Government introduced an amendment to the Bill that would remove restrictions on Mr Murdoch's BSkyB that prohibit it from owning more than 20 per cent of a domestic satellite service.

Lord Donoughue, the Labour peer who led the Opposi-

tion in the Lords' debate on the Bill, said last night: "I saw at the time that this [the amendment] was a major concession to Sky, although I didn't know what was behind it. Now we apparently have the answer."

The Government said the amendment was technical. A spokesman for the heritage department, which is sponsoring the Bill, said: "There is no direct connection [between the amendment and any deal between Mr Murdoch and Mr Heseltine]. We are not aware of any lobbying on this issue."

A spokeswoman for News International, Mr Murdoch's UK newspaper company, said: "We are pleased that the Govern-

ment apparently agrees digital satellite is the fastest, quickest way to develop the information superhighway." She said she could not comment on the substance of discussions between Mr Murdoch and Mr Heseltine.

A Murdoch insider downplayed the issue. "There's this great belief that there are political deals going on all the time, and that they all involve Mr Murdoch. Sure we lobby, everyone lobbies."

Mr Heseltine's office said he had been "looking at all the options, cable and satellite among them, to connect schools to the information highway." The spokesman said he could

TURN TO PAGE 2

Tyson on ropes after new sex attack claim

JOHN CARLIN
Washington

Mike Tyson, unchastened by three years in jail for rape and unrepentant by his conversion to Islam, remains unable to control the demons within. So says a woman who claims that the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion sexually assaulted her in a Chicago nightclub on Sunday.

Police say they are investigating a complaint of criminal sexual assault against Tyson, who legitimately flattened British champion Frank Bruno in Las Vegas last month. Tyson, who has made no

comment about the allegation, has not been charged. A Chicago television station described the woman as a 25-year-old beautician from Indiana who, according to her lawyer, is frightened and wishes to keep her identity a secret.

The lawyer, Jerry Lee Petec, did not provide details of the alleged assault but said his client called the police after her release from a Chicago hospital on Monday morning. "We're going to pursue the criminal avenue and also a civil case," Mr Petec said. "She's scared, upset, angry, hurt." The manager of The Cique nightclub has disputed the woman's claims.

Moody Andrews said that the woman, who had asked to be introduced to Tyson, had never been alone with the boxer on the night of the alleged incident.

"She was in an open space with Mike," Mr Andrews said. "Mike had two security guards that he didn't hire - that we hired. They were watching at all times, to make sure nothing was going to happen."

It was a curious way for Mr Andrews to fight Tyson's corner, the suggestion being that the bodyguards were there not so much to protect Tyson, as to protect others from him.

Muhammad Siddiq, Tyson's spiritual adviser, came up with

what might prove to be a more convincing defence.

"I know one thing," said Mr Siddiq, who attended a Muslim prayer service with Tyson on Sunday morning. "Every time Mike turns, or moves, there's people out there who want to do their thing. I give no credence to this report."

Tyson was convicted in 1992 of raping Desiree Washington, a college student and Miss Black America contestant. He never repented, nor did he ever admit his guilt, but he was released on parole 12 months ago after serving three years of a six-year sentence. He is on probation until 1999.

IN BRIEF

Churchill row
MP Winston Churchill may finance his divorce with £4.5m of the lottery money paid for his grandfather's papers. Page 3

Sun 'slowing down'
The sun's core may be rotating more slowly than it did a decade ago. Page 9

Today's weather
Some sunny spells after a misty start. Section two, page 29



Self Assessment

Keep an eye open for it!



When you receive your next tax return, open it immediately because we've enclosed some important information about Self Assessment.

Inland Revenue

Self Assessment - a clearer tax system

Section ONE

BUSINESS 20-24 COMMENT 18,19 CROSSWORD 26 GAZETTE 16
LEADING ARTICLES 18 LETTERS 18 NEWS ANALYSIS 17
OBITUARIES 16 SHARES 23 SPORT 25-28 UNIT TRUSTS 24

Section TWO

ARTS 8,9 CHESS 27 CROSSWORD 30 DILEMMAS 7
EDUCATION 16-18 FILM 10-15 LISTINGS 28,29
LIVING 4-6 RADIO 31 TELEVISION 32 WEATHER 29

news

Untapped potential of liquid assets

NICOLE VEASH

Inland waterways, part of our 19th-century heritage, need more care, attention – and investment – according to a report published yesterday.

The Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council (IWAAC) says the use and conservation of over 5,000 miles of waterways should be higher up the political agenda.

Waterways have "untapped economic and social potential" and the Government should investigate why, despite incentives, there was little evidence of the transfer of freight haulage from roads to waterways.

Among the 31 recommendations, IWAAC suggests anglers should pay towards maintaining the rivers they use.

And it also proposes measures to encourage tourism, leisure and sport.

Audrey Lee, chairman of IWAAC, said: "Waterways are not like stately homes which you just look at. We must make better use of them."



Still waters: Holidaymakers aboard narrow boats on the Grand Union Canal at Buckby Lock, near Daventry, Northamptonshire

Photograph: Brian Harris

Teachers plan action against bullying heads

FRAN ABRAMS

Bullying headteachers who make their staff ill by shouting at them in front of pupils, damaging their property and even hitting them, could face action, a teachers' union conference will be told today.

A growing number of teachers are becoming sick with worry because of pressures brought to bear as a result of increased competition, inspections and league tables, the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers warn.

A report published at the union's annual meeting in Glasgow presents a catalogue of abuses to which members have been subjected.

One head scrawled the words "Dead, dead" on a teacher's desk in red chalk and hit another member of staff, the report says.

A teacher took her sick child into school wrapped in a blanket because she was so afraid to take time off, and another left after being bullied by a governor, who was also the parish priest.

In another case, an independent schoolteacher who refused the sexual advances of the head was so stressed by the incidents that she was off sick for a year before taking early retirement. Others claimed to have suffered nightmares for months after leaving their jobs and developed illnesses such as

shingles and eczema through stress.

A survey of 3,500 teachers carried out by the union found that seven out of 10 had either been subjected to serious bullying or had witnessed the bullying of others.

The most common forms consisted of innuendo, sarcasm and being shouted at in front of colleagues or children. But two per cent of those who responded had suffered physical violence and damage to their property.

One male teacher in a special school said he felt powerless to deal with his head's increasingly violent and bizarre behaviour. "She physically hit one member of staff. She wrote 'dead, dead' on my desk in red chalk. The woman was deranged, but no one wanted to deal with it. I consider myself tough, but she almost broke me," he wrote.

Another commented: "I can only describe the ethos of my school as like working for Idi Amin – I never know if I'm going to be smiled upon or be verbally clubbed to death".

A motion to be debated today will call for support for members who take concerted action against bullying. Such practices contravene health and safety laws and should not be tolerated, it says.

Jim Hughes, deputy head of Thameshead Community College in Bexley, Greater London, blamed increased competition

between schools for the problem.

"As a deputy head there are pressures on me to make sure that I am producing the goods. But I don't believe in any way that the method of dealing with it is by bullying," he said.

"You get the best from people by making them feel part of an organisation, by being positive and making them feel they are achieving something."

Addressing the conference yesterday, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, Don Foster, said calls by the chief inspector of schools for the sacking of bad teachers had also increased pressures.

"Far too many teachers are demoralised, suffering stress related illness, taking early retirement and bowed down by constantly changing demands and lack of support," he said.

Mr Foster also attacked plans by Labour to allow schools to borrow up to £300 from the banks to clear a backlog of repairs and maintenance.

An Essex headteacher described yesterday how his car went out of control when a disruptive 10-year-old who he was giving a lift home attacked him.

Julian Johnson, head of Templars Junior School and Support Centre in Witham, said that neither the seatbelt nor two minders who had accompanied the child were able to restrain him. The car was damaged in the accident, but no one was hurt.

Owners expect house price rise

Home owners are confident the housing market will pick up, with a rise in prices and quicker house sales, according to a report released yesterday.

Two-thirds of 20,000 householders questioned expected house prices to rise in the next year. Around 6 per cent thought they would fall. Although 55 per cent interviewed thought they would have some difficulty selling their houses if put on the market, this was down from 74 per cent in 1992.

The findings come from the latest report from the Survey of English Housing, a continuous survey on the state of housing in England begun in April 1993 and published by the Office for National Statistics.

The average mortgage-holder is spending £57 a week on their mortgage, while private tenants are paying £70 a week, housing association tenants £46 and council tenants £37.

The number of owner-occupiers remains at 13.4 million (68 per cent of householders).

Another survey published yesterday has found the rise in the annual cost of living has slowed, helped by stagnating house and fuel costs. Food prices and the cost of rented housing were still forging ahead, according to the Cost of Living Survey by Reward Group for firms relocating their employees.

The survey looks at wages and costs, such as housing, food and tax. It said the cost of living rose 2.1 per cent in the last 12 months. The average family of four living in a three-bedroom house with a car and telephone need a gross income of £19,238, compared with £19,039 last year.

Attack on experts' 'ecstasy safe' claim

HEATHER MILLS
Home Affairs Correspondent

Leading drug experts yesterday backed a social services director who provoked a storm of protest after claiming the dance drug ecstasy is "relatively safe".

Paul Betts, father of Leah, the Essex teenager who died last year after taking a tablet on her 18th birthday, immediately denounced the claim by Mary Hartnoll, Glasgow's director, as "totally irresponsible".

Nigel Egan, the Conservative MP and anti-ecstasy campaigner, said she was ignoring the "appalling" side-effects, including heart and kidney failure and long term depression.

However, some psychiatrists and drug experts said that, taken in context, her views were "spot on" and "helpful" to the debate on the drug problem.

Mrs Hartnoll's comments came in a written response to the city's licensing board, which has launched a hard-line anti-drugs drive. It is stunning the introduction of harm reduction measures – like advice and

chill-out areas in clubs – being promoted by those working in the field of drugs use and abuse.

She argued the "fear" message was not getting through to young people because it did not accord with their own drug-using experience and behaviour.

"The irony is that ecstasy, for example, is a relatively safe drug – risk of death has been calculated as one in 6.8 million – (the risk of dying from an ordinary dose of aspirin is very much greater) and young people tend to know this," she wrote.

"For every highly-publicised death, those who use regularly balance their experience of their own, and friends' experience of frequent, safe and enjoyable usage."

She was not available for comment yesterday, but Mr Betts said of her views: "To come from such a prominent person, it's absolutely stupid."

He told the BBC: "She should look at her facts and get her facts right before she makes such a sweeping statement."

American research had found ecstasy caused permanent

and irreversible brain damage, he said, referring to a two year study carried out by Dr Charles Grob for the US Food and Drug Administration in California.

However, UK drug experts said they wanted to see the research published and tested before commenting on it – and stressed the damage caused by prolonged use of alcohol and smoking.

Now big business in the UK – with estimated sales of 100 million tablets a year – ecstasy or "E" was patented in Germany 80 years ago as a treatment for obesity. It triggers chemical changes in the brain, giving a boost of energy and a feeling of well being.

John Davies, professor of psychology at Strathclyde University, said: "Even using the most alarming estimates, ecstasy is not a major cause of death among young people."

He suggested that Mrs Hartnoll's views were shared by most working in the field of drug use and abuse, who wanted to see harm reduction – rather than failed attempts at eradication.

Cannabis centre opens

LOUISE JURY

The House of Hemp was not entirely sure who alerted them, but it was just hours before its official opening that the inspector and chief inspector from Bethnal Green police station chose to call.

The house is to be home to the Cannabis Hemp Information Club (CHIC) whose members are all keen advocates of the lesser-known qualities of

Cannabis sativa. Its opening had obviously prompted alarm at the local station.

Those behind the centre say that while innocent hemp – grown in Britain under licence and used for paper-making and textiles – was the same plant as illegal cannabis, the typical hemp seed possessed only a fraction of THC, the "active ingredient" which produces the "high" prohibited by law.

The officers were clearly

aware of the difference. Spotting nothing resembling an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act they departed, leaving untouched the chocolate cake flavoured with the nutty taste of hemp seed and other hemp-enhanced goodies.

Thus the formal opening of the information centre and museum in Shoreditch, dedicated to public education, was able to go ahead. The Home Secretary may be invited.

FROM PAGE 1

out say what Mr Heseltine and Mr Murdoch discussed.

The Government has been looking at ways of expanding the advantages of the information highway to more people. Its efforts were redoubled following the controversial deal between BT and the Labour Party last autumn under which BT would connect schools, hospitals and public institutions in return for the freedom to offer broadcast services over its telephone lines under a Labour Government.

Lewis Moonie, the Labour MP who will jointly handle the Opposition's role in the Commons debate on the Bill, starting next week, said: "I can't read Murdoch's mind but I certainly know about Heseltine, and he is desperate to be seen to be doing something about education and computers."

As reported in the *Independent* last month, the controversial amendment was aimed at removing domestic satellite from the list of services which large newspaper groups are barred from controlling. Other items on the list include ITV licences and national radio.

Only publishers controlling more than 20 per cent of the

UK national press had been caught by the original clause.

This takes in Mr Murdoch's News International – owner of the *Sun*, the *News of the World*, the *Times* and the *Sunday Times* – and the Mirror Group, which publishes the *Daily* and *Sunday Mirror*, *Daily Record*, the *People* and which owns 43 per cent of the *Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday*.

BSkyB is currently a non-domestic broadcaster, because it uses the Astra satellite, based in Luxembourg. By launching its own UK-based service, it could provide up to 200 channels directly to UK homes, freeing up space on Astra to use for its continental pay-TV operations, in league with Bertelsmann and Canal Plus, with which it has formed a strategic alliance.

Analysts say BSkyB could thereby extend its current dominant position into the digital age.

The amendment also allows the Mirror Group to launch a domestic satellite service. But David Montgomery, chief executive of MGN, said last night: "There is only one company that could afford to launch such a service, and that is Sky. It smacks of political impropriety."

IN BRIEF

Green light for photo licences

New plastic driving licences bearing a photograph of the holder are to be issued early next year. The scheme was first announced by the Government in 1994 after surveys showed that four in five people were in favour of the idea.

Transport Minister Steven Norris said the cards would "bring significant benefits in establishing identity and the prevention of fraud." Civil liberties group Liberty said: "The photo licence should be viewed with alarm by anyone concerned about police powers, their own privacy or the risk of fraud."

Hunt for runaway

A convicted sex offender is on the run after escaping from a psychiatric hospital's secure ward. Police believe Lee Thompson, 21, who disappeared from St Nicholas' Hospital at Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, may be heading for Lincolnshire or Hertfordshire, where he has family links.

Tank off the rails

A 25-tonne army tank turned 360 degrees and rolled down a railway embankment after it fell off a train near Catterick Garrison in Yorkshire. The Warrior was one of 30 being loaded on the train as part of a £750,000 exercise to prove that they are better moved by rail than road. No one was hurt.

Chunnel drugs bust

The first drug smuggler caught using the Channel Tunnel was jailed for two years. Southwark Crown Court heard that John Cornish, 36, of Sandmere Place, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, strapped three kilos of cannabis to his legs and took the Eurostar train from Paris to London Waterloo on 17 January.

Video hire record

The number of videos hired out by Britain's largest rental chain, Blockbuster, topped one million for the first time last week. The most requested film was *Braveheart*, which was hired 122,000 times from the firm's 690 stores. The record is part of a pattern reversing a six-year slump in UK video rentals.

Holy unethical

A firm who claimed their £5 statues of the Virgin Mary immersed in holy water could improve people's lives were ordered to withdraw their advertisements after complaints from the Catholic Church. The Advertising Standards Authority agreed that Chantsearch, of Islington, north London, were targeting the vulnerable.

Bank raid shooting

A bank customer was shot by a robber after staff refused to hand over any cash. The 57-year-old victim was wounded in the leg when the gunman opened fire at the Cooperative Bank in Durham before throwing away his handgun and fleeing empty-handed. The injured man is comfortable in hospital after surgery.

Lots of memories

A fan of *The Archers* spent £550 on memorabilia from the early days of the radio soap. Scripts, fan mail and photographs were put on sale by actress Joanne Whalley-Kilmer, who played Helen Fairbrother in the 1950s. Jan Stretch, 45, from Worcester, bought all three items after beating off bids from a former producer of the BBC Radio 4 programme.

Dead baby appeal

Police appealed for the mother of a new-born baby found dead in undergrowth to come forward after a post-mortem revealed the boy was stillborn. Four boys playing near a pool on wasteland behind a leisure centre in Dudley, West Midlands, found the body on Tuesday. It is believed to have been in the undergrowth for at least 24 hours.

Lloyd's of London

We have been asked to correct a report in last Friday's *Independent* (5 April) of a racial discrimination action in which two Asian risk assessors were awarded £30,000. Both men were employed by Lloyd's Register of Shipping, and not, as stated, by the Lloyd's of London insurance market.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria	£8.40	Norway	£8.50
Belgium	£8.60	Italy	£8.50
Canada	£8.60	Malta	£8.50
Cyprus	£8.20	Spain	£8.50
Denmark	£8.15	Sweden	£8.50
Ireland	£8.15	Switzerland	£8.50
France	£8.15	USA	£8.50
Germany	£8.15		
Greece	£8.15		
Guernsey	£8.15		
Jersey	£8.15		
London	£8.15		

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS
Air mail, 13 weeks: Europe £16.75, USA £18.75, Japan £20.75, elsewhere £22.75. Single copies 50p. 2 Year Deal and Australian £304.75. To order, please send cheque payable to Johnstone International Ltd. (the Services Ltd) to 43 Millbank, London SW6 1QJ or telephone 0171-530 8288. Credit cards welcome.

BACK ISSUES
Back issues of the *Independent* are available from: Historic Newspapers, telephone 0988 402455.

Ruddles County Riddles.

No. 4. Pointless Road Sign.

Last summer, Stephen and Jonnae Pecker, were on their way to meet some very old friends, the Bells. They had arranged to meet over a refreshing pint of that king of ales, Ruddles County at the Staglog Lark Pub, deep in the countryside.

After passing through Little Norton, they reached a crossroads. Their friends' instructions said "Follow signs to Chipping Sherbourne." But the signpost had been knocked over and they were unable to tell



which direction to take.

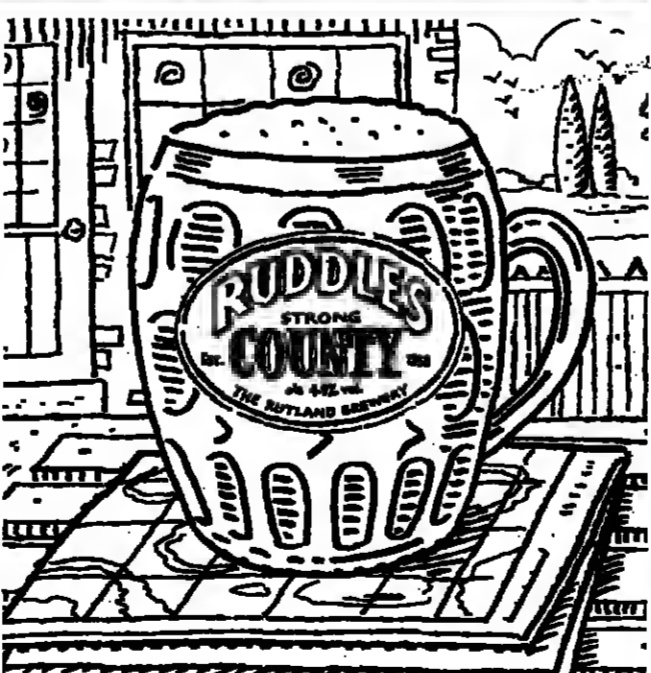
Not having a map, they sat in their car trying to decide which of three possible roads they should take. After 20 minutes

Ted Burns, delivery driver for Ruddles Brewery, came across them, and was able to guide them to the pub.

They spent the rest of the afternoon catching up with their old friends over a flavoursome pint of County.

The Bells told them how they could have discovered the right way to go without Ted's help.

Could you have pointed them in the right direction?



Signpost: They would have pointed the sign back down the road towards Little Norton, the sign would then point the way to Chipping Sherbourne.

April 11 1996

Churchill may use lottery cash to pay ex-wife

REBECCA FOWLER

The trust which received £12.5m of lottery money for the sale of the Churchill archive, amid national fury, said it would consider allowing Winston Churchill, the MP and grandson of the former prime minister, to take out £4.5m for part of his divorce settlement.

Peregrine Churchill, the 82-year-old nephew of Sir Winston and one of three trustees, said they had not been approached yet, but they would consider an application from Mr Churchill, 55, who was seen as the driving force behind the sale of his grandfather's papers last year. As part of his divorce settlement from Minnie, his wife of 32 years, Mr Churchill is allegedly offering to set up a new trust with money from the sale. Their children, John, 20, Jennie, 28, Marina, 27, and Randolph, 30, would benefit from the fund, while Mrs Churchill would live off the proceeds from any investments.

Peregrine Churchill said he and the other two trustees, Ian Montrose, the family solicitor, and Lord Digby, would consider any requests for money once all the lottery grant had been paid by the Treasury.

He said: "He hasn't asked us yet, and if he did the trustees



Sir Winston: Left papers in trust

would have to consider it on its merits. They have the power to do anything because the trust allows for the fact that conditions change, but we would not just give money away because we like someone."

The Churchill papers were the only valuable asset left to the family when Sir Winston died in 1965. According to his family, he was anxious his offspring should not suffer poverty as he did in his youth, and he drew up the trust after the Second World War, which specified the beneficiaries would be his direct descendants in the male line for four generations.

The collection, known as the Chartwell Papers, contains almost everything Sir Winston

wrote before 1945, including letters home from prep school, notes on the abdication, and drafts of wartime speeches, including "we shall fight them on the beaches".

One of the most outspoken critics of the sale was stoical about the reported intention of Mr Churchill to create a new trust. Dr John Charmley, the historian and Churchill biographer, said he still considered that the nation had in effect bought something it already owned a large proportion of.

But he said: "You can't deny Minnie the fact she deserves a substantial sum, but quite whether the British public should be involved in funding it is a different matter."

Mr Churchill, MP for Davyhulme in Manchester who lists his hobbies as "country pursuits" in *Who's Who*, is reportedly anxious to marry Luce Danielson, 53, a Belgian jewellery designer. He previously had a five-year affair with Soraya Khashoggi, former wife of the arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. He was also linked to Jan Cushing, an American heiress, who said of his wife: "If she has a good lawyer, she'll demand half his money, and she deserves it. She's given him her life." Mr Churchill was unavailable for comment.

Police offer chance to join the crimebusters

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

The public will be given the chance to take part in a helicopter rescue and solve a tricky murder before finishing the day by quelling a riot, under proposals for Britain's first national police museum.

The police "visitors centre" is expected to cost about £20m and hopes to attract 600,000 people a year, with an extra 600,000 at touring exhibitions. Chief constables, who gave their backing to the plans at a meeting yesterday, hope to cash in on the public's fascination with crime, criminals and coppers and provide an education, with a cross between the Science Museum and Alton Towers.

At the end of the month the Association of Chief Police Officers should learn whether their application for £10m of lottery money from the

Millennium Commission has been successful.

Among the interactive displays planned for the centre, which will probably be based in London, is a helicopter, for visitors to experience a flight over London where a drowning man will be plucked from the River Thames. A car simulator will offer high-speed chases, and would be stars of ITV's *The Bill* series will be able to orchestrate beat officers, riot police and armed-response vehicles from a mock-up of a police control room.

Visitors will be able to take part in a murder hunt and use the latest DNA and fingerprint technology. Those wanting to track down the next Nick Leeson, who brought down Barings Bank last year, could sift through "cooked" books and pretend to be a fraud officer.

There will also be videos and information about drugs and the criminal justice system

and aspects of police history and notorious cases, such as the Dr Crippen murders, the Great Train Robbery, and the Kray brothers. Possible displays include the umbrella gun and pellet used to kill Georgi Markov, the Bulgarian defector who was stabbed in the leg in 1978 by a KGB agent in London.

Still under considering is how to address issues such as race relations and youth culture.

The site of the old Bow Street police station in central London had been considered for the project, but it is believed to be too small. Alternative sites are being looked at. In addition to the main display the police propose to have an annual touring exhibition and a number of smaller mobile units. Sponsors have already been found to match any lottery money.

It is hoped the centre will be open by April 1999, in time for the millennium celebrations.



Eagle eye: Lone bird on the wing (left) and at rest; visitor with baby watching England's only nest (below)

Twitching to see eagles and egg

NICOLE VEASH

England's only breeding golden eagles have laid another egg in the Lake District eyrie they have inhabited for more than 25 years.

Hundreds of 'twitchers' have arrived to catch a glimpse of the pair whose nest on a craggy ridge in the Riggindale Valley is guarded night and day by a warden from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Bird watchers will be keeping a close eye on the nest after the disappointment of the last four years, when none of the eggs laid was hatched.

Although the eagles have reared more than 15 young since 1969, they have all disappeared.

"We know birds of prey are still being persecuted and the 15 young that have been born over the years may have been killed," the warden said.

Although there are still a few hundred golden eagles in Scotland, there have been no colonies in England or Wales for centuries. The RSPB does not expect the pair to colonise.

"It is obvious that there is something about the north of England which they don't like. They really like peace and quiet and there are always plenty of people wandering around here. I just don't know why they keep coming back to nest."

Visitors who come to watch the birds are taken to a hidden hillside view point, to lessen disturbance to the eagles.



One of the eagles soars above the Lake District (left) Photograph: Tom Finnie And another at rest (above)

Riddle of dead goose, a dog and the MP

JOJO MOYES

Labour's former deputy leader, Roy Hattersley, is well used to the dog-eat-dog world of politics. But life can be much more troublesome, he has discovered, if your dog chooses to eat something else.

Mr Hattersley, a well-documented lover of animals, has been questioned by police over an allegation that his dog killed a goose in a royal park on Easter Monday.

According to police, the 63-year-old MP was walking the suspect, said to look like a Staffordshire bull terrier, in St James's Park, central London, when the goose was attacked and shaken violently by a dog of the same description.

A witness fetched an official in the park between Westminster and Buckingham Palace, but when they returned the victim was dead.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "Metropolitan police officers came across a grey lag goose lying on the South Lakeside Pathway in St James's Park at 8.15 on Monday morning."

A park employee approached the officers and told them he had seen a Staffordshire bull terrier-type dog attack the bird.

"The witness gave a description of the dog and owner and the police spoke to a man soon afterwards at the junction of Buckingham Gate and Wilfred Street."

"Following further inquiries the officers made a report to the Royal Parks police for their consideration on whether to take further action," she added.

A Royal Parks police spokesman said it was "pursuing inquiries to decide whether a prosecution will follow in due course".

Staff at St James's Park said yesterday that had been instructed not to talk about the case because of the high-profile of the suspect's owner.

Royal parks regulations made it an offence to cause or permit any animal of which someone is in charge in chase, worry or injure any other animal or bird.

Dogs are allowed to be off leads in "certain areas" of the royal parks.

The MP for Birmingham Sparkbrook, who once spoke up in Parliament about "encouraging responsible dog ownership", could face a fine of up to £200 for breaking park regulations.

He was not available for comment yesterday.

Available from Dixons, Carphone Warehouse, The Link, Tandy, Currys, Comet, John Lewis Partnership, Granada, Radio Rentals, Tempo, Norweb, Hutchison Telecom Retail, Escom and other leading high street and independent stockists nationwide.

Call 0800 80 10 80 for full details.

news

Farming debate: Attack on union bias and outdated policy

Organic farmers urged to quit NFU

NICHOLAS SCHOON
Environment Correspondent

A leader of Britain's organic farmers yesterday urged all of them to follow his example and quit the National Farmers' Union.

Patrick Holden, director of the Soil Association and British Organic Farmers, said an article by two NFU economists in yesterday's *Independent* was "the straw that broke the camel's back".

"I've now lost patience with the NFU - this is the latest example of them giving us only token support, of effectively damning us with faint praise," he said. The article, by Tom Maher and Sion Roberts, was in response to the *Independent* on Tuesday, when the entire comment page was devoted to the case for organic farming. That debate followed the BSE scare.

The NFU's economists argued that it would be "folly" for all or most of Britain's farmers to switch to organic production, because there was no widespread demand for such produce and it would make them internationally uncompetitive.

Mr Holden, who has an organic farm near Lampeter in North Wales, said he had stayed in the NFU because it exerted a powerful influence on the Ministry of Agriculture and had shown some support for organic farming. Now it was clear that the union only saw this type of agriculture occupying a small niche, he said, never assuming a significant role.

He added: "It's time the NFU took a serious look at its outdated policy and prejudices, and until it does I'm out. My farming partner and I pay a £200 annual subscription to the NFU and £40 to British Organic

Farming [which represents and services only organic producers]. With the kind of backing we're getting from the union that makes no sense for us or any other BOF member."

He will make his call in the next issue of *New Farmer and Grower*, but he wants to continue talking to the union because some of its senior office-holders are sympathetic.

BOF has 600 members, of whom more than half are with the NFU. Organic production covers just 0.3 per cent of Britain's total agricultural land, and most of the United Kingdom's organic food is imported. The producers argue that the best of them can now produce yields close to those averaged by conventional farmers and growers, while minimising harm to the environment and creating safe food.

In 1989, BOF and the Soil Association announced their goal of raising this percentage area to 20 per cent by 2000, although the two now merged organisations admit they are unlikely to achieve it. Mr Holden said their estimate was that 5 per cent of existing British farms could now convert to organic farming profitably, but the great majority could not because existing European Union and government policies locked them into intensive farming.

The association promotes organic produce and certifies that it meets government and European standards for being pesticide and fertiliser-free.

An NFU spokeswoman regretted Mr Holden's decision. She said the union had no policy for how large organic farming should become in Britain, because that was down to the decisions of individual farmers meeting consumer demand. Letters, page 18



Food for thought: Ostriches at an Oxfordshire farm yesterday. The British flock has grown to 10,000 strong in less than decade
Photograph: Joel Chant

Ostrich investors panic as firm folds

NICHOLAS SCHOON

Britain's great ostrich investment bubble was deflating rapidly yesterday, with frantic investors jamming the phone line of a company under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office.

Nottinghamshire police have been called in by the SFO and another force is also expected to be involved in the inquiries into the Ostrich Farming Corporation, which is being wound up by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The BSE scare should be giving Britain's fast-growing ostrich farming industry its greatest boost as consumers seek an alternative red meat to beef. But instead, the closure of the Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC), which has several thousand ostriches on farms in Belgium, is exposing how speculative the boom has been.

Ostrich meat has been much talked up as a new food for the next century - red fleshed with good texture and a pleasant, gamy taste which is much lower in fat and especially cholesterol than other red meats. The composer Sir Andrew

Lloyd Webber has joined the rush, raising the huge, flightless birds on his estate near Ascot.

While the British farmed flock has gone from zero to about 10,000 in less than a decade, it consists almost entirely of breeding stock. Very few have been killed for the pot.

The British Domesticated Ostriches Association, which represents the 300-plus farmers, says there is not yet one ostrich abattoir in Britain although there are plans for three.

The rapid growth of the breeding flock has been fuelled by the hope that the meat would continue to fetch the premium, novelty price of about £18 a pound. But while ostrich has found its way on to the menus of a few pubs and restaurants, but has failed to establish itself on the all-important supermarket shelves. And the gap between the price of good carcasses (£450) and a live breeding bird (up to £14,000) looks enormous.

The Ostrich Farming Company offered investors the chance to buy ostriches of all ages - from chicks to breeding adults, and promised an annu-

al return of just over 50 per cent of their initial investment. It was an extremely attractive rate by any standards - based on them getting a guaranteed price for a guaranteed number of chicks produced by their breeders - and was promoted through extensive advertising. It is these advertisements which are being investigated by the Advertising Standards Authority.

With hindsight, there were obvious warnings. The Securities and Investments Board warned that ownership of an ostrich was not regarded as an investment - and owners would not be entitled to the official Investors Compensation Scheme in the event of a collapse.

The board had looked into OFC's claims and passed a file to the Department of Trade and Industry, which last week asked the High Court for the firm to be wound up. The Official Receiver has been appointed as the provisional liquidator.

OFC's managing director Brian Ketchell used to run a video rental chain, Video Magic, which went into liquidation in 1991. Yesterday, he could not be contacted at the firm's offices in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire.

'Tenants from hell' evicted

A family of 17, branded "the neighbours from hell", are to be evicted from their home after 500 complaints, a council said yesterday.

Mother-of-10 Kay Potts and her extended family were given 48 hours to leave their council house in Wythenshawe, Manchester, after a judge granted the city council a repossession order.

Mrs Potts was ordered to move out after Salford County Court heard a catalogue of complaints from outraged neighbours.

"Members of the family were chronically noisy, used abusive language and threatened violence towards their neighbours and were involved in vandalism and burglary," a Manchester city council spokeswoman said.

Mrs Potts, 50, hit the headlines 17 months ago after police arrested her on charges of handling stolen goods put down "ugly" as her occupation.

She had been sharing her three-bedroom family home, designed for six, with up to 17 people, after moving in two years ago.

The family, who have clocked up more than 500 complaints to the council from neighbours, had been evicted from their previous council house in Manchester for causing a nuisance. Three of their neighbours,

who kept a diary of the Potts' behaviour, gave evidence to the court after an injunction last year failed to have any effect.

"In the teeth of harassment and intimidation, these extraordinarily brave individuals were determined to appear in court to fight for themselves and their community," a council spokeswoman said.

One neighbour, Gerard Ridings, 57, said yesterday: "To call them the neighbours from hell is an understatement. They're an evil lot."

Mr Ridings, a keen gardener, who had had bricks thrown at him, his greenhouse shattered, his home vandalised and his garage set on fire, said: "In the end I'd just had enough."

Chair of housing at Manchester council, Claire Nangle, praised the "courageous" tenants for "helping to end a nuisance which has caused so much misery".

"This is an important and successful story in the fight against anti-social behaviour," she said.

The council's policy was to find evicted families temporary accommodation while their case was reviewed but the judgement made it clear that families like the Potts must mend their ways, she said.

A spokesman for Mrs Potts' solicitor said she had no comment to make.

Neighbour's noise 'provoked' shots

A man who fired an air rifle at the home of a noisy neighbour was fined and given a suspended jail sentence at the Old Bailey yesterday.

William Vonck, 40, of Clapham, south London, who runs a property firm, "snapped" because of the loud music constantly played by Simon Batt, 32, who lived on the ninth floor of a tower block. Vonck fired at least eight pellets at Mr Batt's home, and allegedly cracked a window pane, the court was told.

Judge Michael Stuart-Moore

said: "Your patience snapped because of the loud music. Mr Batt was a self-centred, inconsiderate neighbour of the very worst kind... I accept you were very heavily provoked." He added that Mr Vonck was "very lucky" to avoid prison.

Police found an air rifle with telescopic lenses and an antique shotgun, for which Mr Vonck had held an expired licence.

Mr Vonck was fined £4,500, plus £500 costs and given a six-month prison sentence suspended for two years.

SAVE UP TO £130 AT COMET

VOUCHERS MUST END SUNDAY

INDESIT

1000 SPIN WASHING MACHINE

- 11lb wash load
- 18 programmes
- Half load option
- Economy wash
- Delicates wash
- Model: WN1063
- was £349.99
- In-store price £279.99

VOUCHER PRICE £249.99

SAVE £100

MITSUBISHI

28" HOME CINEMA PACKAGE

Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound

Model: OT28AVBD, was £849.99

The Comet price £799.99 **SAVE £50**

NICAM VIDEO RECORDER

Model: HS550V, was £379.99

The Comet price £349.99 **SAVE £30**

FREE RADIO TIMES FAMILY VIDEO GUIDE

10 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT*

PACKAGE PRICE £1099

SAVE £130

AS SEEN ON TV

COMET - A BETTER PLACE TO SHOP

THE COMET PRICE

YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER

FREE WIN DES LYNAM'S GUIDE TO SPORT ON TV just ask for a Home Cinema demonstration

TICKETS TO A TOP SPORTING EVENT please ask in-store for details.

UP TO 18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON A CHOICE OF TOP BRAND HOME ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTS

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET GOODMANS CD MICRO HI-FI 21 track programmable CD MULTISYSTEM tuner Tone control/Single cassette deck/Balance control Model: MS155, was £399.99 In-store price £379.99 VOUCHER PRICE £299.99 SAVE £80	EXCLUSIVE TO COMET SONY 21" REMOTE CONTROL TV 21" wide screen Faststart Plasma square tube Includes TV/VCR stand 60 channels Model: RM21016 was £329.99 THE COMET PRICE £299.99 SAVE £30	EXCLUSIVE TO COMET GOODMANS LONG PLAY VIDEO RECORDER Digital tracking/SCART socket On-screen programming Model: TRW40, was £199.99 In-store price £159.99 VOUCHER PRICE £149.99 SAVE £50	AT LARGER STORES COMPAQ Intel Pentium 70 MHz processor 8MB RAM/520MB hard drive Quad speed CD ROM drive Built-in 14.4 Kbps modem and answerphone Model: Presario C255500, was £1799.99 In-store price £1499.99 VOUCHER PRICE £1449.99 SAVE £350	AT LARGER STORES AST Intel Pentium 100 MHz processor 8MB RAM/520MB hard drive 15" monitor/Quad speed CD ROM drive Model: Advantage 812 was £1999.99 In-store price £1549.99 18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT* VOUCHER PRICE £1529.99 SAVE £470
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET ELECTROLUX UPRIGHT CLEANER 600 watts suction power Complete with tools Toy car storage Pleasure dust bag Model: U2507120 In-store price £34.99 VOUCHER PRICE £29.99 SAVE £5	EXCLUSIVE TO COMET KENWOOD TOUCH CONTROL MICROWAVE 700 watts REC 8.5 cu ft capacity 1000 watts grill Model: KM501T was £219.99 In-store price £199.99 VOUCHER PRICE £134.99 SAVE £85	EXCLUSIVE TO COMET KELVINATOR STANDARD FRIDGE 4.7 cu ft capacity CFC Free/Automatic defrost Model: K211 normally £189.99 BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER** TERMINAL PRICE £159.99 SAVE £40	EXCLUSIVE TO COMET TRICITY BENDIX 8 place settable/4 programmes Preset and hold/Presets, dispenser and multi indicator Model: COM212/10486 was £239.99 In-store price £209.99 VOUCHER PRICE £259.99 SAVE £90	
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET HOVER UPRIGHT CLEANER 1000 watts suction power Built-in tools 5 filtration levels Model: U2507120 In-store price £149.99 VOUCHER PRICE £139.99 SAVE £10	EXCLUSIVE TO COMET CREDA CONCEPT SOLARGLASS ELECTRIC COOKER 800mm wide/450mm deep Easy clean inner/Double oven Fan oven/Hot heat zones Model: C2503 was £1999.99 BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER** TERMINAL PRICE £799.99 SAVE £100	EXCLUSIVE TO COMET WHIRLPOOL AQUARIUS WASHING MACHINE 500-1000 rpm/17lb wash load 20 programmes/24-hour timer Model: W202P was £399.99 In-store price £379.99 VOUCHER PRICE £339.99 SAVE £60	EXCLUSIVE TO COMET HOTPOINT AQUARIUS WASHING MACHINE 500-1000 rpm/17lb wash load 20 programmes/24-hour timer Model: W202P was £399.99 In-store price £379.99 VOUCHER PRICE £339.99 SAVE £60	

EX

ON ANY S

WITH THE VOUC

SKY PREMIER

MUST E

FOR 24 MONTHS

WARRANTY AND 6 MONTH

RENT FREE

Court battle: Student alleges negligence by top firm in UK

Solicitors sued over millionaire's will

JOJO MOYES

Britain's biggest firm of solicitors is being sued in the High Court next week for alleged negligence over the will of Belgravia property developer Eric Hopton.

Clifford Chance, which with 240 partners in 23 countries is also the second largest solicitors firm in the world, is being sued by 22-year-old university student Dominic Trusted, the great-nephew of Eric Hopton and a potential beneficiary of his will.

Among the witnesses expected to appear are George Staple, head of the Serious Fraud Office and former partner at Clifford Chance, and Rona, Lady Delves Broughton, whose father-in-law, Sir Jock Delves Broughton, was acquitted of murdering the Earl of Erroll in a case that inspired the 1987 film *White Mischief*.

The case revolves around



George Staple: Former partner at Clifford Chance

the multi-million pound estate left by Mr Hopton, who died in 1991 before completing a new will. Mr Hopton, whose Belgravia Property Company was sold for £48.5m to Elliott Bernerd, owner of the Wentworth

Club, died aged 72 of a heart attack.

Mr Hopton had a younger brother John, who died in 1978 leaving two sons and a sister, Eileen. Dominic Trusted's mother. His will was not completed or signed and Mr Trusted, as a potential beneficiary, alleges negligence over the way in which the new will was handled. He is suing for more than £1m.

The defendants in the action are Clifford Chance and one of its partners, solicitor David Bowyer, who handled affairs relating to Mr Hopton's will. George Staple, a former partner in the firm, was Mr Hopton's solicitor in all other matters.

A separate but related action by Mr Hopton's close friend Rona, Lady Delves Broughton, which was also begun in December 1993, has been discontinued.

Lady Delves Broughton, 55, a Lloyd's of London council

member, was a director of Mr Hopton's property company and nursed him through his final illness. He and her late husband, Sir Evelyn Delves Broughton, had been friends at Eton.

She dropped her action, which was claiming £500,000 over the uncompleted will, earlier this month. Her solicitors, Goodman Derrick, said yesterday that she had "made a contribution" of £175,000 to Clifford Chance's costs.

Perry Simson, a partner at Clifford Chance, said yesterday: "We have been advised by counsel and the solicitors acting for us that the claim will fail and that it will be vigorously contested."

Mr Trusted, a student at Edinburgh University, is receiving legal aid to fight the court action. He declined to comment yesterday.

The case, which begins in the High Court next Tuesday, is expected to last three weeks.

Tumim attacks Howard on jail reform

HEATHER MILLS
Home Affairs Correspondent

Prison officers will be placed at even greater risk of violence, injury – and even death – by the Home Secretary's latest law and order package, the former Chief Inspector of Prisons warned yesterday.

In an outspoken attack on last week's White Paper announcing sweeping reforms to sentencing, Judge Stephen Tumim condemned as "a very dangerous doctrine" plans to abolish automatic remission and parole and replace it with continuous assessment by prison officers.

And he echoed the concerns of Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, by describing plans for minimum and mandatory life sentences for a range of offenders as a "denial of justice". It was forcing independent judges to become mere tools of the Government, he said. "It will mean overcrowding, great expense and a widening of the gap between the classes of our society rather than an attempt to help prisoners lead law-abiding lives."

Judge Tumim lost his contract as the guardian of prisoners' rights and conditions last November, because of what insiders described as a head-on dash with Michael Howard.

Yesterday it became clear that his removal had not silenced one of Mr Howard's most effective critics. He chose a book launch in London to speak out. He said: "If you are not going to get parole or remission then you might as well beat up or murder a prison officer."

"What is worrying me is that continuous assessment is going to cause extremely bad relations, allegations of racism, of favouritism, of support by officers of snoots by one prisoner against another. Nothing could be worse for prison discipline than that."

The judge rejected Government claims that the tough new measures were simply a response to overwhelming public demand for action against crime. "Everybody always says the public wants tougher treatment of prisoners, rougher treatment of prisoners, oastier treatment of prisoners."

"I don't know what the public wants, but I suspect what it wants is to see justice done."



Judge Tumim: 'Worried'

Ex-care staff call for abuse inquiry

ROGER DOBSON

Staff who worked at one of the biggest homes involved in the North Wales child abuse scandal yesterday backed calls for a full public inquiry.

Care staff who worked at the Bryn Estyn Home in Wrexham Cwyd, where two senior staff were convicted of abuse, say anything short of a full inquiry would be unacceptable.

"The internal inquiry was doomed to failure because, as many of us foresaw, there would be problems over publication because of the legal issues involved," said a spokeswoman who worked at the home for 10 years.

The move by former staff comes amid growing concern that a 300-page report following a two-year investigation by three leading child care specialists will never be published.

It makes a series of recommendations to prevent a recurrence of the kind of events which in Cwyd led to years of abuse for as many as 200 young people. Several child care agencies, including Childline and NCH Action For Children, want the report published so that lessons can be learnt.

William Hague, the Secretary of State for Wales, will face a barrage of demands both for publication of the report and for a public inquiry from Labour's health spokesman in Wales, Rhodri Morgan, who the minister returns from leading a trade mission to the United States at the end of this week.

The Cwyd affair also raises important issues over the status of reports of investigations into abuse claims. Some agencies believe that they should be given a status which guarantees indemnity against libel or other legal action.

Staff who worked at Bryn Estyn, which closed in 1984, say they have been concerned for some time about the issues surrounding child care in North Wales. Because of the pressure the staff felt, a support group has been set up offering help, advice and counselling to those under pressure.



On the right track: Emma and Richard Carroll at the entrance to one of the 'family carriages' being set aside by Great Western Trains on selected train journeys from London to Wales and the South-west so that families can play and relax in freedom

EVERYONE'S A WINNER



Nothing's left to chance when you buy from Gateway 2000. America's largest direct PC manufacturer and one of the fastest growing companies in Europe too. From a modest beginning on a cattle farm in the American Midwest in 1985, we're now a Fortune 500 company with an annual turnover of nearly \$4 billion and over 8,000 employees worldwide. So you get more PC for fewer £££s, which should put a spring in your step – award-winning technology backed by the finest service and support, which all adds up to genuine value-for-money. Our PS-100 Multimedia Express, with a fantastic software bundle worth over £300, is fast and powerful and ideal for everything from business to entertainment. Every Gateway 2000 PC comes with a 90-day money-back guarantee, free telephone support for hardware and software for the system's lifetime and a year's free maintenance at either your home or office. So don't take a gamble, get a Gateway 2000.

For details of our full range of PCs, call us free for a great deal more from Gateway 2000.



PS-100 MULTIMEDIA EXPRESS

- Intel® 100MHz Pentium Processor*
- 16MB EDO RAM
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- Quad-Speed CD-ROM
- 1GB 11ms IDE Hard Drive with
- PCI Enhanced IDE Interface
- Trio 64Vx 2MB DRAM Video
- Ensoniq WaveMaster Sound Card &
- ALC Lansing ACS40 Speakers with
- ACS250 Subwoofer
- 15" Viewtron® Colour Monitor*
- Desktop Case
- Windows 95® 105 Key Keyboard &
- MS Mouse
- Microsoft® Windows 95
- MS Office Professional® 95
- MS Encarta® 96 (US Version)
- 3 Years Limited Warranty

£1470 inc VAT & Delivery

GATEWAY2000

"You've got a friend in the business."

0800 39 2000

Gateway 2000, Clonsilla Industrial Estate, Dublin 17, Ireland.

Configuration and price are subject to change without notice. ©1996 Gateway 2000 Europe. In Ireland, this and other PCs are sold by Gateway 2000 Europe Ltd. The Irish branch of Gateway 2000 Europe Ltd is located at the same address as the main office. Gateway 2000 Europe Ltd is a registered company in Ireland. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

SAVE AN
**EXTRA
£10**
ON ANY SATELLITE SYSTEM
AT COMET

WITH THIS VOUCHER WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO
SKY PREMIER CHANNELS FOR 12 MONTHS*

MUST END MONDAY

PLUS 30 DAY MONEY BACK
GUARANTEE AND 6 MONTHS
FREE SKY SPORTS†

WHAT VIDEO
RECOMMENDED

PACE STEREO SATELLITE SYSTEM
INCLUDES 800M MESH DISH
BRITAIN'S NO.1 SATELLITE BRAND
WHAT VIDEO RECOMMENDED
"Top specification and performance for the price"

- Stereo 1D compatible • 120 channels
- Video timer • 3 SCART sockets
- Model APOLLO 100, normally £149.95
- in-store price £99.99

**VOUCHER PRICE
£89.99†**
SAVE £60

Sky's 30 day money back guarantee

The cost of your dish, installation and subscription back if you're not completely satisfied.

SKY see in store for details

NO RETURN BACK

(Subject to simultaneous taking out a subscription to both Movie Channels and Sky Sports for a period of 12 months at £24.99 for the first month, £21.99 for the next 6 months and £24.99 per month thereafter. Plus a one off £10 connection fee payable in addition to the monthly subscription fee. Some areas may require an 80cm mesh dish, message for an extra £20. Offers not available to previous or existing subscribers; subscribers must be aged 18 or over, eligibility subject to status. Full details of subscription from Sky Subscriber Services Ltd, PO Box 43, Livingston, West Lothian EH54 7TD.

SEE THE COMET PRICE INDEX DAILY ON Teletext Ch.4 P.425

**BETTER COME TO
COMET**

MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY & UNTIL 8PM WEEKDAYS
RING FREE ON 0500 560570 FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE AND
MULTIMEDIA COMPUTER CENTRE

news

France wins UK defence deal

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Defence Correspondent

The French government is to acquire a majority share in the manufacture of vital equipment for Britain's "independent" nuclear deterrent in a new deal struck by French, British and Australian defence contractors. Although the arrangement is a purely commercial one, it gives new impetus to Franco-British co-operation on nuclear strategy, which could develop into a future European nuclear force.

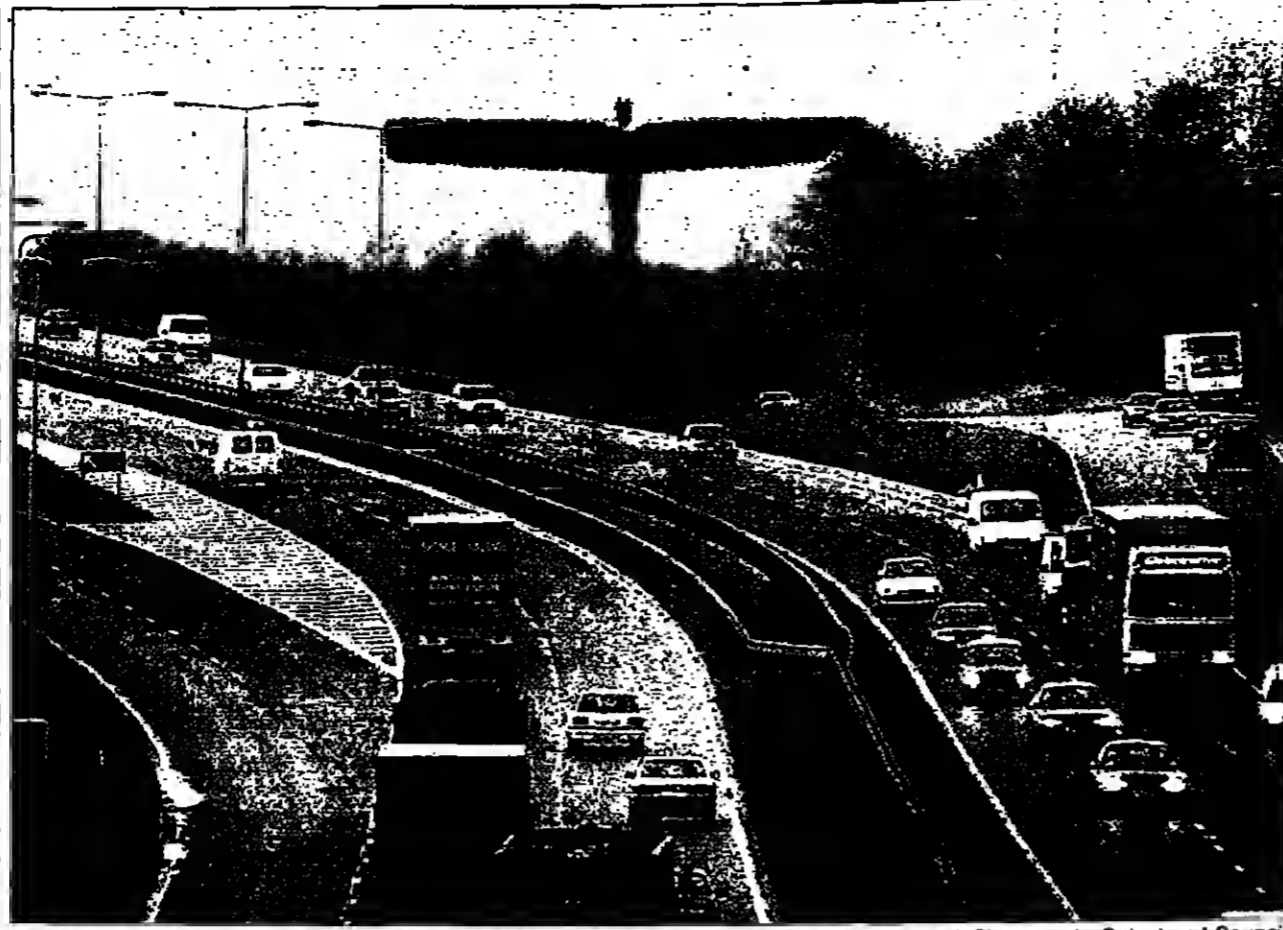
A new company called Thomson Marconi Sonar (TMS), with 3,500 employees in Britain, France and Australia, will be the second largest supplier of sonar equipment in the world. The new company will be based in France and the French government-owned firm of Thomson-CSF will own 50.1 per cent of the shares. The British firm GEC-Masconi will own the rest. The new company will supply all the sonar equipment for the British and French submarine fleets -

including the 16,000 tonne British Vanguard class submarines which carry US-built Trident missiles. Two of the submarines are already in service. Two more will become operational in 1997 and 1999. New sonar equipment added to vessels in refit will be provided by TMS.

The deal also means Britain will have an almost identical share in the sonar of the new French Triomphant class ballistic missile-firing submarines, the first of which enters service later this year.

Denis Ranque, who will head the new company, said: "The acoustic signature of the submarines is a very sensitive matter to the French and British governments but we have satisfied them we can maintain the necessary secrecy."

Discussions on Franco-British cooperation in nuclear strategy have in the past focused on agreed patrol areas, and technical collaboration on future torpedo-firing submarines. The new company has made that co-operation a reality.



Wings of desire: This is how Gormley's steel angel will appear to motorists on the A1. Photograph: Gateshead Council

£500,000 grant for steel angel

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Arts Correspondent

The fiercely opposed project to erect a 60ft tall steel angel overlooking Gateshead has won more than half a million pounds in lottery funding. Lord Gormley, the chairman of the Arts Council, will announce today.

He will be in Tyneside this morning to announce a grant of £584,000 - a move which will earn him the cordial dislike, if not opprobrium, of most residents of the town.

The angel is the inspiration of Antony Gormley, who won the Turner Prize for works such as *Field*, a sea of 40,000 clay figurines. *Testing a World View*, in which five iron figures were shaped into awkward positions, and a 1988 work, a bed made from 6,000 slices of bread.

His plan to erect the statue, with a wing-span of 150ft, on the site of a former coal mine was put forward in a public art competition run by Labour-controlled Gateshead council. The cost of the work - originally £250,000, but now more than £800,000 - and its dominating size have aroused the town's ire. More than £150,000 is coming from the European Regional Development Fund and a further £45,000 from Northern Arts in Newcastle.

Last year, 4,000 people signed a petition objecting to it, even though the Arts Council, European sources and Northern Arts, rather than the council, will be paying the bill.

Kathy King, a Liberal councillor, is one of those fighting to get the council to drop the scheme. "Quite frankly, it will be a monument to the stupidity of the council here in Gateshead, and you can quote me every word, pet, because people here do not want that statue," she said yesterday.

Mr Gormley himself says the work will symbolise the spirit of the North-east. It will be visible throughout Tyneside and will be a landmark for anyone driving up from the south on the A1. It is expected it will be finished by March next year.

Magnet Half Price

KITCHEN & BEDROOM

SALE

ON SELECTED CABINETS



SHAKER BIRCH, PLAIN & SIMPLE - 40% OFF

Whirlpool

FREE DISHWASHER

ADDITIONAL When you spend £2,250 or more on a kitchen including installation

FREE HOB FREE HOOD

With selected purchases With selected purchases

UP TO 50% OFF REFRIGERATION

With selected purchases

UP TO 1/2 OFF WASHING MACHINES

With selected purchases

ASK IN-STORE FOR DETAILS - PLUS MANY OTHER OFFERS

EVERY RANGE REDUCED

With every range reduced in the Magnet Spring Sale and many at half price, Magnet Kitchens are now even more affordable.

Magnet

Food for thought

For your nearest showroom call free 0800 555 825.

OPENING TIMES: Mon-Sat 9.00-5.00. Selected branches open until 8.00 on Thursday and 10.00-4.00 on Sunday. Check each branch for details.

IND 22

Fear of ridicule keeps 'tough' boys from help

GLENDA COOPER

Boys who have been brutally ill-treated are refusing to get help because they believe they must be tough and keep any worries to themselves, according to a new survey published by the charity ChildLine.

Despite talk of the "New Man", the macho stereotype persists and boys who do speak of their problems fear being ridiculed as weak wimps.

The report, *We Know it's Tough to Talk*, is based on a sample of the 16,505 boys who contacted the helpline in 1994-5 and a questionnaire carried out in secondary schools. The charity has also launched a campaign with the London Monarchs, Britain's only American football team, encouraging boys to call.

Four times as many girls as boys call ChildLine, and more than five times as many girls of 11-15 than boys.

Mary MacLeod, research director for ChildLine, said the proportion of boys calling with such serious problems that they had to be referred to police or social services was much higher than that of girls. Among boys, 18 per cent called about physical abuse, 17 per cent

about bullying, 11 per cent about sexual abuse and 8 per cent about sexuality. In comparison girls called about a wider range of concerns, most frequently bullying or family problems, and proportionally fewer because of physical abuse.

Boys told of attempted strangulation, being thrown down stairs, beaten around the head and stabbed. "Steve", 13, said his father frequently got into a rage and hit him around the head, dragged him by his hair and pushed him downstairs. He added that because he was blind his father would move objects so that he fell over them.

And "Simon", 15, told ChildLine that the previous day his stepfather had beaten him with a metal rod and broken his arm. "Assaults like these are criminal offences... But for children the possibility of getting help or of the violence ending seems remote," Ms MacLeod said.

Both girls and boys talked of their feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness and low self-esteem. But boys were more likely to speak of anger and destructive behaviour, and were much more likely to be self-critical about having a problem at all, feeling that a "real"

boy would have prevented or stopped bullying or assaults.

In the school survey, based on 1,453 completed questionnaires, 17 per cent thought it was acceptable for girls to get upset but boys should be tough. Half (51 per cent) said boys found it harder to talk than girls.

"Stereotyping seems to reach its height in adolescence when boys feel under great pressure to show they are tough," Esther Rantzen, chairwoman of ChildLine, said. "But the 71 per cent increase in suicide by young men in the past 10 years shows how dangerous it can be to bottle up distress."

ChildLine (free) 0800 1111. Young people must be taken much more seriously if the Church of England is to widen its appeal into the next century, a report produced by the General Synod's board of education warned yesterday. The church is failing to recognise the potential of under-25s in playing an active part in the Christian community, according to the report, *Tough As Nails*. It says traditional services and styles of worship risk excluding young people, and calls for youth to be allowed to share in the leadership of flexible creative worship.

PAY
YOUR
MOTOR
AND
HOME
INSURANCE
BIT BY BIT,
INTEREST
FREE.

No large lump sums
to pay. No interest to pay.
No need to hang about.
Call now for details.

GA

General Accident
Direct

MOTOR INSURANCE BUILDINGS & CONTENTS
0800 121 000 0800 121 004
PAY BY INSTALLMENTS INTEREST FREE

REDUNDANCY & SICKNESS 0800 121 008 • TRAVEL 0800 121 007

Weekdays 8am - 8pm, Sat 9am - 5pm. *Written details on request. General Accident Direct, FREEPOST, Hamilton ML3 1AR.
<http://www.ga.co.uk/gadirect>

Watchdog
for 'Net'

DAILY POST

WH Smith relents on 'top-shelf' magazines

LOUISE JURY

WH Smith's wholesale arm is giving newsagents the option to refuse to stock "adult" magazines after a campaign against the top-shelf sales by some retailers.

The high street chain's wholesale division will ask newsagents to "opt in" to the sales in future after complaints that soft porn material was being forced on retailers who did not want it.

WH Smith News distributes magazines and newspapers in a "box-out" system, under which a pre-packed selection of items is sent to 20,000 independent customers.

Although newsagents can elect not to receive adult magazines, some claimed their wishes were not being respected and Handy Shahein launched a protest campaign from his shop in Stoke Newington, north London. At its peak, the opposition claimed support from 500 other shops.

The company, one of three wholesalers dominating the market, said yesterday it hoped the modification to the distribution procedure would meet the objections.

A spokeswoman said: "There's been a lot of criticism weighed against us. We thought we'd clarify the matter once and for all to make sure we don't inflict these magazines on people who don't want them." Other magazines would be selected and sent to the newsagents instead, she said.

Mr Shahein welcomed the move as a "step forward" but said pressure was being still placed upon newsagents to accept the top-shelf material.

He accused WH Smith of stressing the good profits to be made, up 10 per cent on last year, in order to persuade

retailers to accept some of nearly 90 adult magazines on the company's lists.

"We're looking for total freedom of choice so that if the retailer doesn't want these magazines he doesn't have to have them. It's been proved that these magazines are harmful and degrading to women and not good for children."

Mr Shahein, whose business has folded since he began his protest six years ago, but plans to continue the campaign, said newsagents were left with no choice because only one wholesaler covered any particular area of the country. He claimed it was not possible to deal with anyone other than WH Smith in north London.

Brigitte Faubert, legislative officer of the National Federation of Retail Newsagents, said that although individual newsagents were supposed to have the right to refuse material, in practice they had limited negotiating rights.

The wholesaler "boxed out" to the retailers a selection that they had to accept or risk losing the supply. This left newsagents paying for magazines which in some cases they knew they could not sell, would return a month later and have to wait at least a further month before getting their money back.

"The top-shelf magazines are an additional problem. They have to pay for this material which is against their beliefs and it makes them a front line target for anybody coming in and asking they are displaying this filth," she said.

The federation has asked the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate the grip on the wholesale market by WH Smith, John Menzies and Surridge Dawson.

Censoring top shelf, page 19

Watchdog calls for 'Net' gains

GLENDA COOPER

A network of public computer kiosks, similar to the payphone system, should be set up to make sure the less well-off are not excluded from the information revolution, a consumer watchdog said yesterday.

The National Consumer Council wants "PC boxes" put into libraries, hospitals and community centres, so that people unable to afford a computer can surf the Internet.

It can cost a minimum of £700 plus VAT for an IBM-compatible personal computer and around £150 a year to link up to information services providing access to the Internet. Less than a quarter of UK households have a computer.

The telecommunications watchdog Ofcom has already proposed extending universal service in telecommunications to cover multi-media facilities in schools for five to sixteen-year-olds. The NCC wants these proposals extended to all consumers in public access points, with special facilities for the housebound.

A version of this idea exists in the Cambridge area. The Cambridge On-Line project,

sponsored by the local cable company and the Internet service provider Pipex, has six terminals across the city. Addenbrookes hospital also allows access to council services, local voluntary groups and the Internet as a whole.

Ruth Evans, NCC director, said: "We are living through a technological revolution with telecoms, broadcasting and computing converging fast. The information society could bring untold benefits - access to information, advice and educational services locally, nationally and internationally."

"However, regulation has not kept pace with the changes. We need a more effective regulatory structure to ensure open access, full choice, fair prices and adequate consumer protection."

Barclays and Lloyds banks will shortly introduce 50 kiosks where people will pay to surf the Internet and receive e-mail.

Eva Pascoe, training director and co-founder of the Cyberia cafes, said: "It's good idea in principle. A kiosk would be OK if all you wanted was stupid, mindless touch-screen shopping, but there is no easy way to get round the Internet at the moment without training."

DAILY POEM

Halstat

By Richard Ray

I remember Halstat. It clings
by its finger-tips
to the towering peaks of the Dachstein,
its feet lost in the black,

silent waters of the lake.
Silent houses paddled
in the shallows, their legs
perished and blackened with age.

A shaft of light falls
on the decorated homes
of the townspeople.

A fountain splashed
by the bone-house where
painted skulls and thigh-bones lay
in the gloom of the cave-like crypt.

Richard Ray is 13 and comes from Newcastle-under-Lyme. He won a special award for this poem, written two years ago for the 1995 WH Smith Young Writers' Competition in the 9-10 age group. The collected winning entries appear in *Electric Full Stops*, published by Macmillan Children's Books at £4.99. Details for entry into the 1997 Young Writers' Competition will appear tomorrow.



Hostage to fortune: A scene from the Royal Opera House's production of 'Nabucco'

Photograph: Clive Barde

Albery puts the boo into Nabucco

MARIANNE MACDONALD and DANIEL ROSEMAN

The embattled Royal Opera House yesterday pledged to continue with its production of *Nabucco* despite the chorus of catcalls and boos which greeted its first night on Tuesday.

The audience was incensed by the way the director, Tim Albery, had interpreted the early Verdi masterpiece telling the Biblical story of King Nebuchadnezzar - *Nabucco*.

The boos were an identical reaction to his first staging of the production, which Albery directed at the Welsh National Opera last September.

The opera is set in the sixth century BC, when the Babylonian ruler Nabucco sacked Jerusalem, carried the Jews into exile, but then, after being struck mad by God, allowed them to return home.

In a deliberate flouting of conventions, Albery dressed the Israelite women as Victorian prostitutes in ballgowns and the men as early 20th century

Chorus of disapproval

Harrison Birtwistle's *Gawain*, Royal Opera House, London 1994: led by composers campaigning against avant-garde. *Das Rheingold*, ROH, 1994: the latex suits and flippers in Richard Jones's production. *Don Giovanni*, Glyndebourne Festival, 1994: suggestive movements with a statue of Virgin Mary in Deborah Warner's production.

middle-European Jews. The chorus crawled around the stage daubed with luminous paint, while soldiers in combat fatigues peevishly brandished plastic guns.

The distinguished conductor Sir Edward Downes withdrew before the first night because he was "out of sympathy" with the production.

A Royal Opera House spokeswoman said the opera, a co-production with WNO, would not be cancelled. "That would disappoint a lot of people who have booked and are coming to the performances."

HOUSE OF FRASER SALE.

A CUT ABOVE THE REST.



(Starts Today. Open until late.)

With generous reductions in every department including ladies' fashions, fashion accessories, menswear, homewares, furniture and electricals.



HOUSE OF FRASER

ARMY & NAVY • DAVID EVANS • DICKINS & JONES • BINNS • BARKERS • DH EVANS • HOWELLS • JOLLYS • ARNOTTS • CAVENDISH HOUSE
HOUSE OF FRASER • FRASERS • DINGLES • KENDALS • RACKHAMS • SCHOFIELDS • HAMMONDS

Certain merchandise not available at all stores.

news



Lisa Leeson: A flying start

Virgin signs up Lisa Leeson

Lisa Leeson, the wife of the disgraced former Barings trader Nick Leeson, has landed a job as a stewardess with Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic airline.

Mrs Leeson, 27, who lives with her parents at West Kingsdown in Kent, is due to begin her training as a junior flight attendant next month.

Announcing its new appointment yesterday, Virgin Atlantic said that Mrs Leeson's successful application was "based on her own merits, personality and skills".

It said that initially, she will fly on trans-Atlantic routes and "as with all new Virgin Atlantic Airways cabin crew, needs to complete six months service before qualifying for concessionary Virgin Atlantic flights and one year before receiving discounts on other carriers".

At the time of her application it was believed Mrs Leeson wanted to become a stewardess so as to be able to make more regular and cheaper trips to Singapore to visit her husband.

Speaking at the Elizabeth Tea Rooms in Maidstone, Kent, where she has worked as a part-time waitress since returning to England a year ago, Mrs Leeson said she has yet to inform her husband, who is in prison in Singapore, about her new job. "He knows that I have applied for a job but I only found out yesterday myself so I've yet to tell him."

"I will be sorry to leave here and I'm sure there'll be tears when I leave," she joked. "I don't know anything about a leaving do, but I'm sure we'll be having a leaving cuppa."

Inner-city violence: Birmingham counts cost of trouble as inquiry into Bradford clashes rejects 19 complaints

Bid to end feud over parking

Senior officers were hoping for "constructive dialogue" with community leaders yesterday after police had been stoned by youths in a long-running feud over parking restrictions.

Trouble flared in Alum Rock Road, in the Salthley area of Birmingham, on Tuesday night after the arrest earlier in the day of three men who allegedly intervened as an officer issued a fixed-penalty parking ticket.

More than 200 Asian youths surrounded the city's Digbeth police station, and later walked through the streets throwing missiles at police and stoning buses and passing vehicles. One officer suffered minor injuries.

A 20-year-old man has been charged with assaulting a police officer and affray and was due to appear before magistrates.

Officers, led by Superintendent Roger Conway, met six community leaders and councillors in the predominantly Asian neighbourhood in a bid to resolve the problem quickly.

Divisional Commander Colin Macdonald said: "We will be talking about the reasons behind the events and how they can be resolved. We are hoping to have a constructive dialogue with the community."



Under siege: Riot police regroup outside a shattered shop front on Birmingham's Alum Rock Road on Tuesday evening

Photograph: Caters

Police cleared of blame for riots

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

An investigation into last year's Bradford riots, which caused more than £1m worth of damage, has cleared the police of any wrongdoing despite a series of complaints from sections of the city's Asian community.

The Police Complaints Authority announced yesterday that allegations of police misconduct during the three days of disturbances were "without foundation".

Despite the findings, at least two of the 19 people who made an official complaint, mainly involving allegations of assault and unlawful arrest, are to take

civil action against the West Yorkshire police force.

For three nights last summer several hundred Asian youths held numerous street battles with police in which petrol bombs, bricks and bottles were thrown. The trouble had apparently started after the arrests of two youths for allegedly obstructing a footpath while playing football. Forty-one people were arrested after the disturbances.

The PCA, which oversaw an investigation by officers from the West Midlands police force, said it had decided that no officers would be disciplined. One officer involved in the first arrests is to receive advice and retraining after the PCA said he

had used the wrong powers to detain a suspect.

Nineteen complaints were examined, of which eight were dropped and two were not investigated. One case involved an Asian woman who said she and her baby had been jostled by police and her clothes torn.

PCA member Caroline Mitchell said: "The allegations which were made were very serious and the public concern is understandable and widespread, but unjustifiable public disorder resulted. It is our conclusion that these allegations were without foundation."

Ms Mitchell stressed that the PCA placed particular emphasis on independent wit-

nesses and medical and forensic reports. She added: "There's no question of a cover up - we are not frightened to take action."

PCA inquiries have been consistently attacked over the years for not being objective because they rely on police officers to investigate other officers.

Aurangzeb Iqbal, solicitor for two of the Asian youths who made complaints, said that his clients were taking civil action. Javed Iqbal, 20, and a juvenile who cannot be named, appeared before Bradford magistrates last September charged with threatening behaviour and assault. Both were cleared.

Mr Iqbal said the decision

that one officer is to be retrained proved the grievances were not without foundation. "The PCA should have gone much further, but at least this proves it was not a complete whitewash and I do not think there will be a backlash from the community," he said.

Mohammed Ajeeb, a local councillor and former mayor of the Bradford, said the report was disappointing. "It's not a question of anyone shouldering the blame: it's a question of perception," he said. "There is a belief that when the police deal with ethnic minorities they are not fair, and that perception has not changed."

Mr Ajeeb insisted that there

would not be a backlash against the police, despite the community's frustration.

Norman Bettison, the Assistant Chief Constable of West Yorkshire Police, said the force was pleased that officers were not being held responsible for "the action of troublemakers".

He added: "Many police officers felt personally saddened that their good work suffered setbacks as a result of the disturbances. They view it as an isolated and shocking incident."

Among the explanations given for the riots are the high level of unemployment among male Asians, poor education, and the breakdown in influence of the family and community.

Traffic police stop chief at 90mph

A police chief was stopped by his own officers after they clocked him speeding down a motorway at 90mph.

Cambridgeshire Chief Constable Ben Gunn was issued with a fixed penalty notice after being stopped by traffic officers on the M11 on Saturday.

In a statement yesterday Mr Gunn, secretary of the Association of Chief Police Officers' terrorism committee, said: "I naturally very much regret that a lapse of concentration resulted in me exceeding the speed limit. I was correctly reported for the offence. I have informed the police authority."

A police spokesman said that Mr Gunn was stopped at 8.50am while driving his Rover 620 south on the Cambridgeshire stretch of the M11, which has a 70mph limit. Mr Gunn was off-duty and pulled over when signalled to do so.

Being issued with a fixed penalty notice obliged Mr Gunn to pay a fine, in the region of £30 to £40. His licence will be endorsed with three points.

The incident is to be discussed at the next month's Cambridgeshire police authority meeting. Mr Gunn, 52, was appointed Chief Constable in January 1994 after a time as deputy.

Councillor Ed Murphy, Labour spokesman on the authority, said the incident had to be kept in proportion. "My opinion is that it shouldn't endanger his position. It's an unfortunate incident, but it does clearly demonstrate the police officers in Cambridgeshire are acting without favour."



Mr Gunn: Regrets lapse

15% off all ceramic wall and floor tiles.

(Offer ends 30th April.)

SAINSBURY'S
HOMEBASE
HOUSE AND GARDEN CENTRES

Good ideas cost less at Homebase.

Monday-Thursday 8am - 8pm • Friday 8am - 9pm • Saturday 8am - 8pm • Sunday 10am - 4pm
All sizes are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject to availability. Offer applies to all ceramic wall and floor tiles. Offer is valid while stocks last. Available from Homebase stores until 30th April 1996. Purchases must be paid for in full and in person at the store between 10th April 1996 - 30th April 1996.
The 15% offer applies to all marked prices. *Except Watford-on-Thames which closes 8pm Friday and 6pm Saturday. †Except Croydon, Kensington, Camberley, High Wycombe, Northampton, Leeds, Nottingham, Mill Hill, Selby and Solihull which open 11am - 5pm and Hemel Hempstead and Farnborough which open 9am - 5pm.

Dixons

THE CHEAPEST WAY TO KEEP IN TOUCH

Pagers are the perfect way to keep in touch - the simple, quick and inexpensive way of getting all your messages! Once you've got yours, you'll wonder how you ever managed without one!



BT JAZZ NUMERIC PAGER

- 12 character display.
- 10 x 20 digit message slots.
- Vibrate or audible alert.

£69.99

Dixons Deal

BT LYRIC ALPHA NUMERIC PAGER

• 12 character display.

• 10 x 20 digit message slots.

• Vibrate or audible alert.

£89.99

BENETTON NUMERIC PAGER

• 12 character display.

• 10 x 20 digit message slots.

• Vibrate or audible alert.

£99.99

Dixons Deal

CALL 2000

£119.99

Dixons

There's a great deal going on

345 BRANCHES NATIONWIDE TEL: 0181-200 0200 FOR YOUR NEAREST BRANCH

Traffic police stop chief at 90mph

TOM WILKIE
Science Editor

The BISON network consists of six instruments around the world: in Tenerife; South Africa; Western and Eastern Australia; Chile and California. "Chile is brilliant," Dr Elsworth said.

Dr Chaplin stressed, however, that the data were only revealing hints of a core slowdown. "We need more data. You need good coverage to beyond the year 2000," he said.

Hubble vision shapes up

Astronomers believe they are closer to understanding the weird shapes of distant galaxies revealed earlier this year in a picture of the uttermost limits of the visible universe taken by the Hubble space telescope, writes Tom Wolfe.

The photographs (left) show two of the different types pictured by Hubble — the puzzling irregular objects at the left, with spiral galaxies (broadly similar to our own Milky Way) at the right.

Professor Richard Ellis, of the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge, told the National Astronomy meeting in Liver-

TOM WILKIE

Once released, the stars were free to wander within an area 3 million light years across. In comparison, our galaxy, the

Computer simulations of the dynamics of colliding galaxies had predicted that, in addition to altering the galactic morphology, the collision should produce "debris" in the shape of lonely extra-galactic stars.

lonely stars. However, the galaxy is so distant that it is impossible to observe individual stars even with the most powerful of telescopes. Instead he looked for patterns betraying the presence of "planetary nebulae" in the spectrum of the light coming from the cluster of galaxies. In our Milky Way there are about ten thousand planetary nuclei scattered among a hundred billion stars. So Dr. Theuns knew if he found just a few nebulae in any area, it would indicate there must be millions of other stars there too.

He used the European Southern Observatory's New Technology Telescope in the Chilean Andes to search for isolated planetary nebulae, and found "a couple of candidates".

WHEN YOU BUY 3 OR MORE



**NEW
OFFER**

Schreiber

PEMBROKE This lovely edition will always stand the storm. It features a superb solid oak square frame with silver veneer centre panels and for that typical touch of Schreiber style, beautiful inlaid metal handles and backplates.



Schreiber
 warmer ceramic panels and for that typical touch of Schreiber style, beautiful handpainted metal handles and backplates.

COMPLETE 8 CABINET KITCHEN*
 INCLUDING
**A TALL FRIDGE
 FREEZER**
 6 GREAT CABINETS, OVEN,
 HOB AND EXTRACTOR, SINK,
 TAPS AND WORKTOPS

FOR ONLY
£1382.81

***Enjoy a short break that
will feel more like a holiday!***

2 NIGHTS

£16^{.50}

PER PERSON PER NIGHT
DINNER,
BED & BREAKFAST
FROM £26

[illegible]

There are a limited number of rooms available at these promotional rates, all bookings subject to availability. Offers are only available at participating hotels and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Prices are per adult per night based on 2 persons sharing a twin or double room or two single rooms. For a single room, there is a supplement for one adult in a twin/double room of £15 per person per night in peak periods. All prices are inclusive of VAT. For other children on request. All prices are inclusive of VAT.

We will be happy to visit your home at a time that's mutually convenient to complete a full Pre-Fit survey of your kitchen when you use our installation service.

SHOPPING HOURS: Mon 10-8, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-8, Sat 9-6, Sun 11-5, except Southampton 10-4.
Northern Ireland: Mon 10-6, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-9, Thurs 10-9, Fri 10-9, Sat 9-6, Sun 12-5. **PHONE** free pages 0520 192 192 **FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE**

Also available at

MEU homeworks

**KITCHEN CABINETS
GUARANTEED
10% LESS
ANY OTHER NATIONAL
RETAILER'S QUOTE**
See in-store for claim details



More Furniture Ideas

*FOR EXAMPLE THE ABOVE COMPLETE KITCHEN COMPLETES: 1000mm Hi-Less Base Unit x 2, 1000mm Corner-Line Base Unit, 1000mm Full Height Wall Unit x 2, 600mm Built Under Oven Hanging Unit, 600mm built Under Unit, 600mm Hi-Less Base Unit, ACCESSORIES: Stainless Steel Sink S9082122, Waste and Overflow: Pignatelli (PWP) 11831, Washbasin 300 x 300 x 1, Washbasin 300 x 170 x 1, Continuous Plaque x 2, Return Plaque x 2, Dishwasher, On Drawer Oven or built in 1100mm Gas Oven, 1100mm Electric Oven, 1100mm Microwave (PWP 21121), Hot Fridge/Freezer (HFW810), 1 when you spend \$300 on any Miele or Scambor chairs, Complete In-Store Price \$3895 or \$1001 off any total completed integrated fridge/freezer x any two, single integrated refrigeration products. 1 purchase per customer/transaction. Offer not transferable to any other product.

10
politicsLabour to
bring 'City
Hall' chief
to LondonCOLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Labour leaders yesterday said they were keeping alive the idea of an American-style elected mayor for London as part of plans to create a directly elected strategic authority for the capital.

Tony Blair recently put forward the idea of an elected mayor for London. But there were anxieties that if the mayor's role was too powerful—like that portrayed by Al Pacino in the film *City Hall*—it would nullify the purpose of the new elected authority for London.

Doubts about Labour's commitment to an elected mayor were raised by the equivocal tone of a policy document for London published yesterday, which highlighted some of the disadvantages. "Such an approach would be quite new in Britain, changing the role of the elected assembly and its individual members and leaving one person in a much more powerful position than has been customary," it said.

Rather than proposing the elected mayor, the paper—*A Voice for London*—invited comments before coming to a firm conclusion. But Frank Dobson, the shadow Environment Secretary, denied Labour had backtracked on the idea. He said the proposal for an elected mayor "was put forward by the leader of the Labour Party with my full knowledge and agreement".

Party sources indicated that Labour remains keen on the idea of an elected mayor. The idea was first raised by Michael

Heseltine as Secretary of State for the Environment but he was forced to drop it when Tory MPs complained that Labour mayors would usurp their powers in Tory constituencies.

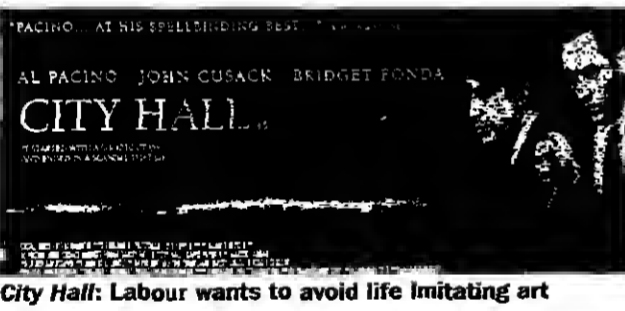
Labour strategists believe Baroness Thatcher's destruction of the former GLC has left a need for a strategic authority for London, which the public recognise. That would make the idea of a directly elected Greater London Authority popular, in spite of any misgivings about the former GLC.

Mr Dobson made it clear that Labour would not try to recreate the former GLC, with its massive headquarters on the south bank of the Thames.

The new authority would be smaller, possibly only having 74 elected members—one from each parliamentary constituency—a limited staff of officials, and would not take responsibility for day-to-day functions, such as housing and parks and gardens, that it did when Ken Livingstone was leader. It would have no powers to levy direct taxes, but would take finance from the boroughs and central Government.

The Greater London Authority would take over strategic powers from the London boroughs for transport planning, the environment, fire and civil emergencies, and economic development. It may be given oversight of the London ambulance service, described by Nick Raynsford, the Labour spokesman on London, as "a disgrace".

It would also have authority over the Metropolitan Police, taking away that function from the Home Secretary.



City Hall: Labour wants to avoid life imitating art

Councils to be
cash competitive

COLIN BROWN

A £250m pilot scheme for local authorities to compete for cash for capital projects, including schools and roads, is to be given the go-ahead by the Environment Secretary John Gummer.

Local authorities made it clear in consultation which ended in the past few days that they were opposed in principle to the extension of the concept of "capital challenge" contests, the brain-child of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, when he was Environment Secretary.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, fought strenuously against the competition for funds being applied to schools. A leaked document disclosed that she was fighting Mr Heseltine's initiative, but on 30 January, the DoE announced it was going ahead with the consultation on the plan.

While that represented a partial defeat for the Education Secretary, she has still not conceded that schools will be open

to bids for challenge money. It is likely that she will resist any attempt to involve schools.

Local authorities also warned the Government that in addition to their general misgivings, the proposed pilot for a 12-month period was too short. Mr Gummer is expected to heed their warnings when he makes the announcement next month, by extending the scheme beyond a year. He may also amend it to increase the money available.

Under the plan, about £250m will be taken from the £3.5bn normally given to local authorities in spending approvals for capital projects each year, and offered to the best bids.

Mr Heseltine's aim is to persuade authorities to sharpen up their thinking in order to win the money. He believes it leads to a spin-off in projects among the losers, but local councils complain that it is a waste of time and effort for those who fail to win.

Labour is committed to abolishing the competitions for funds, making the pilot scheme in April 1997 an academic exercise, if it wins the election.

Patten plays down talk
of a Westminster return

Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, last night cooled speculation he may be planning a comeback to Westminster politics next year, after the hand-over of the colony to China.

Mr Patten, who spent more than an hour with the Prime Minister in talks at Downing Street, was asked if the subject arose between the two.

He replied: "No. That was a negative no, rather than a positive no. The subject of my future didn't arise this afternoon, and I don't make a point of coming back to London and talking to the Prime Minister or others about my future."

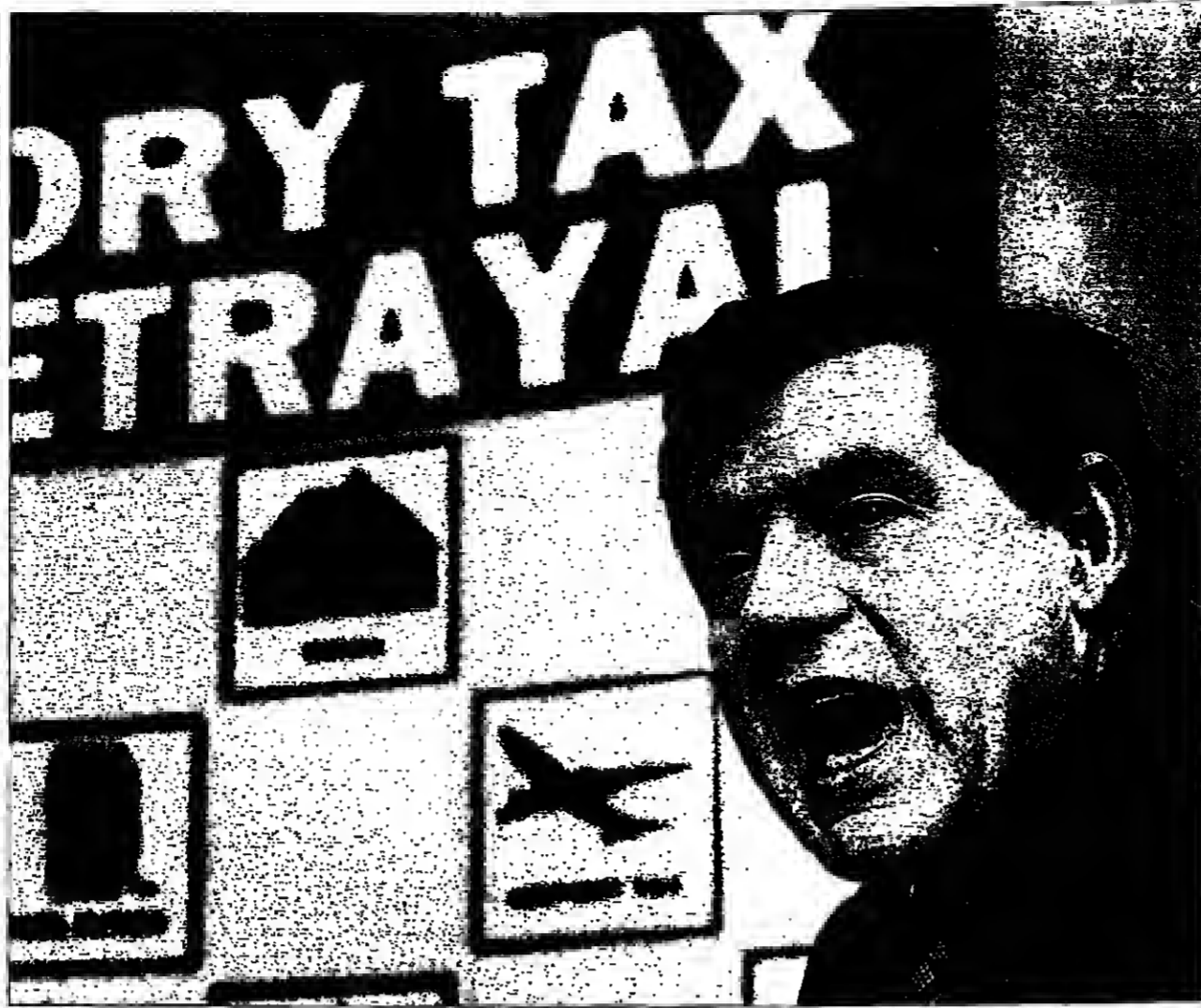
During John Major's visit to the Far East last month, Mr Patten—the former Conservative Party chairman credited with masterminding the party's last

general election victory—fuelled reports he may be looking for a key Cabinet role if the Tories win a fifth consecutive term.

He was widely reported to be missing the boho life of Westminster politics and spoke of fond memories of briefings with lobby journalists in the same vein as "looking at Lord's cricket ground on a spring morning".

Mr Patten was asked yesterday if he had given the Prime Minister any advice about Conservative prospects at the next election.

He said: "I am governor of Hong Kong. I was in the past chairman of the Conservative Party and was full of good advice I hope. The best advice I can give the Prime Minister at present is that the cricket season is about to start."



Eve of poll: Gordon Brown, shadow Chancellor, at Labour's Tamworth headquarters yesterday Photograph: Newsteam

Tories feel chill
in TamworthCOLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

Labour campaigners were forecasting a swing to Labour in double figures today to win the by-election in Staffordshire South-East and cut John Major's Commons' majority to a perilous single vote.

Labour needs a swing of 6.3 per cent to win the Tory seat in today's poll, which is taking place almost four years to the day since Mr Major was elected to office, against all the odds, on a late surge of Tory support.

The Tory candidate, Jimmy James, was yesterday putting in a last effort to win back the wavering Tory voters by pumping the flesh in Tamworth market, where a week ago Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, forecast that he would be the first beneficiary of the "feelgood factor".

Mr James was pinning his hopes on the late surge that carried Mr Major in. He was a party worker at two previous Tory by-election defeats—at Littleborough and Saddleworth and Dudley West—but said the mood was better this time.

"The atmosphere is totally different. There was a lot of bitterness at Dudley... At the beginning of the campaign in

Staffordshire South-East, people were saying we are not very happy with the Government's policy, and we are not sure how we are going to vote. More recently, they have been saying, 'We think things are getting better; we're not entirely happy—but we will give you the benefit of the doubt'."

However, there was confusion in the Tory camp over possible excuses for the expected defeat. Mr James was hedging his bets by insisting that the seat, where the Tories are defending a majority of 7,192 after the death of former whip Sir David Lighthorn, is, in his view, a Tory marginal. It is not Tory heartland, he said.

But Mr Clarke last week left no room for excuses tonight by saying that he only had to look at Tamworth to see it was the sort of seat which ought to vote Conservative.

Labour is keen to play up the importance of the result, saying if the party can win by a double-figure swing tonight, it is well on the way to victory in the general election.

Staffordshire South-East 1992 general election: Con 29,180; Lab 21,968; Lib Dem 5,540; SDP 885. Con majority 7,192. Electorate 70,199. Turnout 82.1 per cent.

"Find them for less locally & we'll refund DOUBLE THE DIFFERENCE."

KEY season PRICE

MICHAEL CASEY: B&Q LONGSTONE

Dulux Vinyl Matt, Silk or Soft Sheen Emulsion Brilliant White. 2.5 litres. Was \$7.99 NOW £4.99 each

Dulux Vinyl Matt, Silk or Soft Sheen Emulsion Brilliant White. 7.5 litres. Was \$15.99 NOW £12.49 each

Dulux Natural Hints Vinyl Matt, Silk or Soft Sheen Emulsion 12 Colours. 2.5 litres. Was \$11.99 NOW £9.99 each

Colonial Knotty Pine Interior Door 78ins x 30ins. £24.99

Crown Wallpaper Small floral or floral stripe design in 5 colourways. Was \$4.99 NOW £2.99 per roll

Border 5 metres. Was \$3.99 NOW £2.49 per roll

Gainsborough Style 300 Electric Shower 7.2kW with push button high or low power settings. Was \$74.50 NOW £64.50

Gainsborough Energy 2000 Electric Shower 9.6kW with 5 mode multi-spray showerhead and rotary control for flow and temperature. Was \$129.99 NOW £99.99

Smooth Paving Slab 400mm x 400mm. Natural, buff or red. WAS 89p NOW 75p each

Europa Block Paving 200mm x 100mm x 60mm. Natural, red or brindle. WAS 20p NOW 16p each

Thompsons Patio Cleaner Kills and protects against fungal growth with immediate and effective results. Contains Benzalkonium Chloride. Was \$4.99 2.5 litres. NOW £3.99

Blue Hawk Plaster Coving Pack of 6. 100mm x 2m lengths. £10.99 per pack Also 127mm x 2m length £12.99 per pack

Blue Hawk Ready-mixed Cove Adhesive Sufficient for 6 x 2m lengths. £8.99

B&Q Garden Timbercare Tudor Oak, New Red Cedar, Golden Chestnut & Dark Brown. 9 Litres. Was \$9.49 NOW £6.99

Shamrock Peat Free Growing Bag WAS \$1.49 NOW 99p

BIG 150 LITRE SALE B&Q Multi Purpose Compost For potting plants, cuttings, baskets and seedlings. WAS \$6.99 NOW £4.99

80 litres. £2.99

B&Q Granular Lawn Feed Weed & Mosskiller Contains MCPA, Mecoprop-P and Ferrous Sulphate. Treats 70sq.m. £6.49

Grasshopper Triple Action Lawn Care Contains Dicamba and Ferrous Sulphate. Treats up to 300sq.m. £19.99

Levington 'Evergreen Extra' Lawn Feed With weedkiller and mosskiller. Contains MCPA, Mecoprop and Ferrous Sulphate. Treats 100sq.m. £6.99

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q NOW!

Pick up a leaflet in store. Does not apply in B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots.

OPENING HOURS
Monday-Saturday: Most stores 8am-8pm.
Sunday: England & Wales 10am-4pm (where permitted).
Scotland & Northern Ireland 9am-6pm.
Certain store hours may vary, please phone your nearest store to confirm.

**A BIGGER CHOICE
A BETTER PRICE**

Key Season Price products are clearly marked in-store. If you find any for less locally we will refund double the difference - just call back within 14 days with your B&Q receipt. This excludes price comparisons made with B&Q Warehouses or B&Q Depots. See in store for details of our standard price promise which applies to all other products. Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouses and B&Q Depots. Sizes shown are approximate. Offers subject to availability, please phone to check before travelling.

John 1201520

Forces
to fan

LOOK OUT
PROCES

£2

£3

£54.50

£17.50

£14

£129.99

BRITAIN'S
FOR YOUR NEAREST

YOU CAN DO

Forces inquiry turns to farce in Canada

HUGH WINSOR
Ottawa

What started as an inquiry into how a handful of low-ranking Canadian soldiers on peace-keeping duties in Somalia beat and tortured a teenage prisoner to death three years ago has turned into a farce in which all 100,000 military and civilian personnel in the Canadian Armed Forces were ordered to devote 24 hours this week to a futile search for missing documents and computer tapes.

All military planes were grounded, all weapons were downed, and all non-essential operations were suspended on orders from the Chief of Defence Staff, General Jean Boyle, after the head of a civilian inquiry reported that several crucial communications logs covering the activities of the Canadian Airborne Regiment in Somalia were missing. It also appeared that top-secret computer tapes at National Defence headquarters covering the same period had been erased.

The missing records and tapes pointed to an attempt at a high-level cover-up of the circumstances surrounding the killing of the teenager and an-

other shooting incident during the Somalia mission in March 1993.

These events have turned into a major embarrassment for Canada, which claims to have originated the idea of United Nations peace-keeping following the Anglo-French invasion of the Suez Canal zone in 1956, and which has participated in most UN peace-keeping operations since.

But the senior officers in the Canadian Armed Forces were looking even more like the gang who couldn't shoot straight yesterday when the day spent pawing through filing cabinets produced no missing files and Canadian media had a field day with stories and pictures of military personnel involved in a treasure hunt.

Even military chaplains and a civilian barber working at defence headquarters were asked to go through their files but an exception was made for the approximately 1,000 soldiers on duty around Corralc in Bosnia.

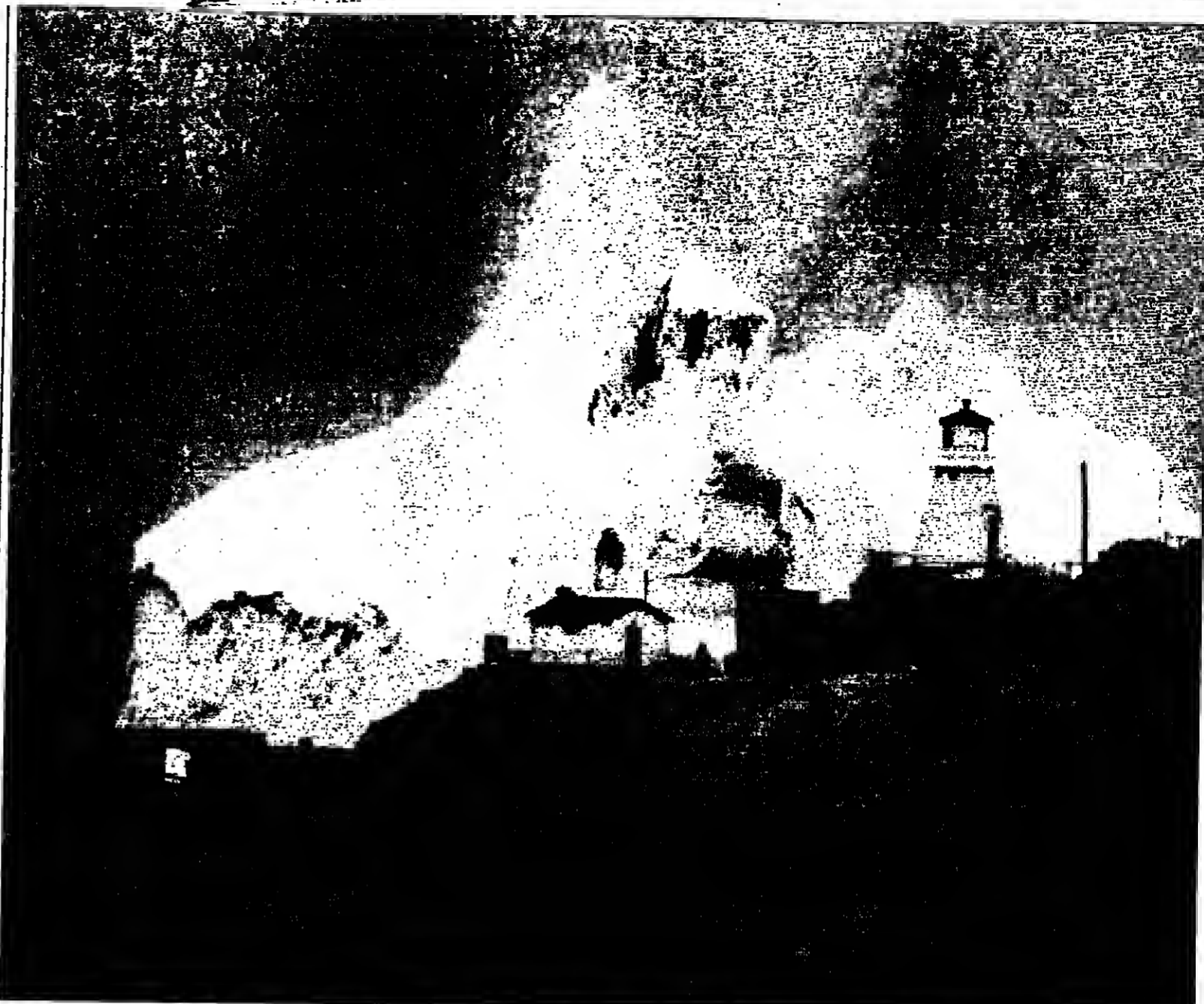
Several computer technicians have added to the embarrassment by casting doubt on the theory about erasures, claiming the apparent gaps might have

been caused by faulty programming. "If silly Keystone Cops type of things like this are going to carry on, it's time we got an investigation that brings out the truth," said one critic yesterday.

General Boyle's house-cleaning order has been widely seen as an effort at damage control, to divert attention from accusations that he and other senior officers knew about the cover-up and had approved of it.

A corporal and two privates have already been convicted in military court of offences connected with the torture and beating to death of the teenager. But the judicial inquiry is looking into the broader question of the training and preparation of the Airborne Regiment for the Somalia assignment, given that it was known to have discipline problems and also into what happened at defence headquarters when senior officers first learned of the torture death and another shooting.

A colonel who is now facing court-martial for destroying or altering some of the relevant documents has said his seniors, including General Boyle, knew of the attempted cover-up and approved.



Cold front: A huge drifting iceberg looms over Fort Amherst, in the narrows of St John's Harbour, Newfoundland

Photograph: Jonathan Hayward

Britons dodge bullets to reach airlift from Liberia

CLAUDIA MCELROY
Reuters

Freetown — Civilians fleeing the fighting in Liberia's embattled capital, Monrovia, yesterday described how they had dodged death during a four-day ordeal, before helicopters airlifted them to safety.

The whole town was on the move. Thousands of refugees were on the streets and we could hear mortars and heavy artillery," said a Briton, David Wood-Roberts, who works for a British telecommunications company. "We grabbed all we could. There was danger from stray bullets whizzing everywhere."

Some civilians got out on a UN helicopter on Monday while others left on a US airlift. "There was shooting everywhere. Women were crying.

We were bracing ourselves to be shot," said another Briton, Wendy White.

The fighting, triggered by efforts to arrest a warlord on charges of murder on Saturday, brought fears of a return to the full-scale civil war, which in six years has killed more than 150,000 people. Until last weekend, the capital, patrolled by West African peace-keepers, was something of a safe haven.

Ms White, Mr Wood-Roberts and other evacuees said there was widespread looting and that terrified civilians had fled for their lives or had hid in their homes. "All the electrical shops and supermarkets in the city centre were looted and all pick-up trucks were taken to transport the stolen goods," Mr Wood-Roberts said.

"We were very fortunate to get out with our lives," said an

American businessman, Rob Lewis, who came out on the US helicopter airlift. "The first rebel faction came through. Police and militiamen loyal to Charles Taylor, the man who launched the civil war in 1989, and a rival faction leader, Al-haji Kromah, a fellow council member, laid siege to Johnson's home, triggering the clashes.

Ghanaians from the West African peace-keeping force rushed Mr White and Mr Wood-Roberts to a UN base in a 12-mile dash by car.

A fragile truce held in Monrovia yesterday and hundreds of fugitive civilians defied the sporadic shooting and prowling militia fighters to try to reach home.

Civilians in the city centre barracks, where Johnson was holed up with fighters from his Krahn tribe, said they were

free to leave but afraid to venture out. They said about 30 West African peace-keepers held hostage had been freed but 36 Lebanese civilians had not.

Under Tuesday night's ceasefire agreement, Johnson agreed to release several hundred civilians and peace-keepers being held hostage by his forces.

"People want to leave but they are still concerned about their personal safety outside the barracks," Mark Johnson, one of several thousand civilians inside, said by telephone.

Witnesses said hundreds of the 15,000 people sheltering in a US embassy annex had left, saying that if they had to die they preferred to die at home.

Intensive negotiations took place among the peace-keepers, faction leaders and the council of state to build on the ceasefire agreement.

IN BRIEF

Jordanian dissident on hunger strike

Beirut — Laith Shubellat, the Jordanian trade unionist and opponent of the Middle East peace accords, has gone on hunger strike, writes Robert Fisk. He is in prison serving a three-year sentence for slandering King Hussein and Queen Noor. Shubellat's sentence was imposed after he condemned Queen Noor for weeping at Yitzhak Rabin's funeral while offering no condolences to the family of a Palestinian radical assassinated by the Israelis. His appeal will be heard within two weeks. He says he has been placed in solitary confinement and that three plain-clothes security men remain in his cell day and night, preventing him from talking to other prisoners.

Bahrain arrests three for arson

Manama — Bahrain has arrested three people suspected of setting shops ablaze in the capital this week, the Gulf News Agency reported yesterday. Bahrain had said that fires broke out in three different shops on Sunday caused by explosives in booby-trapped cigarette packets. *Reuters*

China marks new frontiers

Peking — China set a boundary between its far western regions of Xinjiang and Tibet as a step toward settling all border disputes among its 29 provinces and large cities. The Xinhua News Agency said there have been more than 1,000 boundary disputes since the Communists came to power in 1949. *AP*

Romania targets cigarette smuggler

Bucharest — Romanian police accused a Syrian of evading more than \$13m (£8m) in taxes and duties. Zaher Iskandarani, who studied in Romania in the Communist era, "imported neither more nor less than 287,000 cases of cigarettes and 600 tons of coffee in something more than one year," said a spokesman. *Reuters*

Lithuanian election called

Vilnius — Lithuania's President, Algirdas Brazauskas, has called parliamentary elections in the Baltic state for 20 October, his office said yesterday. *Reuters*

Finns take the metal road

Helsinki — Cellists from Finland's Sibelius Academy said yesterday they plan to make a record of hits by a heavy metal band, Metallica. The musicians believe hits like Enter Sandman have enough depth for an all-cello sound, a spokesman said. *Reuters*

Polish PM launches Auschwitz inquiry

Warsaw — Poland's Prime Minister, Włodzisław Cimoszewicz, said he had ordered an inquiry into a local governor's decision to let a right-wing group stage a march at Auschwitz. The governor was summoned to Warsaw yesterday to explain. *Reuters*

HK plugs a worrying leak

Hong Kong — Customs officers seized more than 6,600 condoms after tests showed they might leak. Laboratory tests showed one in 12 of the Malaysian-made Romantic Rocket and Magic Veil Super Sensitive brands leaked, a customs official said. *Reuters*

LOOK OUT FOR MANY KEY SEASON PRICES AROUND THE STORE

Hilka Bench Grinder
240 volt, 3000rpm, single phase motor with two 15cm grinding wheels.
£24.99

Bosch PDA100 Delta Sander
100 watts, single speed.
Was \$47.64
NOW £39.99

Bosch PSS23 Orbital Sander
150 watts, 13,000 rpm, with lock-on button. Was \$37.63
NOW £29.99

Bench Drill CH10
1/4 hp motor, 5 speed, 13mm chuck, designed for the home/workshop.
£39.99

Black & Decker KC8452C Cordless Drill/Driver
8.4 volts, 10mm chuck, variable speed, reversing and 3 hour charge. Was \$74.50
NOW £54.50

Bosch PSB400-2 Corded Drill
400W, 10mm chuck, 2 speed with hammer action. Was \$41.26
NOW £36.26

Bosch PST 54E JIGSAW
350W, Variable speed, electronic speed control.
£37.95

Black & Decker KX1600 Heat Gun
Single heat, 1400W.
£17.50

PowerBreaker RCD Adaptor JO2
Was \$18.99
NOW £14.39

Flymo Turbo Compact 300 Electric Hover Mower
12ins cutting width, 1250W, 4 cutting heights and 15m cable. Was \$135.
NOW £129.99

Moultfield Omega Laser 42 Petrol Rotary Mower
16ins cutting width with 37hp Briggs & Stratton Petrol Engine, recoil start and 50 litre grass collection bag.
£169.99

Gualcast Quadtrak Electric Rotary Mower
12ins cutting width, 625W, 3 cutting heights, grassbox and 12m cable. Was \$82.
NOW £79.99

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST D.I.Y. CHAIN -
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 4166

B&Q

YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

The 'unbeatable' Nokia at an unbelievable price!

Cellphones Direct is pleased to bring you this unrepeatable bargain.

The fabulous, feature packed Nokia 232. Past winner of the coveted 'What Cellphone? Best Consumer Phone Award, achieving a maximum rating in every performance category, including value for money.

Simply phone us with your credit card details to receive your phone and valuable accessories within 4 working days.

CELLPHONES DIRECT LOWCALL PLUS INCLUDES 15 MINUTES OF CALLS PER MONTH	
Monthly Rental	£17.50 (£15 + VAT)
Peak Rate Calls (or mins)	50p per min (42.5p + VAT)
Off Peak Calls	20p per min (17p + VAT)



LIMITED OFFER
£24.99
INC. VAT

- FREE CONNECTION - to the Vodafone network
- CALLS INCLUDED - 15 mins per month on Cellphones Direct LowCall Plus tariff
- FREE ACCESSORIES - in-car adaptor and leather case together worth over £55

NOKIA
MODEL 232

- ◆ 98 name/number memory ◆ 70 mins talk-time ◆ 16 hrs standby-time
- ◆ Complete with battery and fast travel charger ◆ Lightweight 210g

GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

Cellphones
Direct

ORDER NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

FREEPHONE 0500 000 888
CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 9PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL AND QUOTE REF 888. (SORRY WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CARDS)
Offer subject to status and a standard airline contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd, 155 Lever Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH9 4JH. Full details and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright Registered No. 2593222

early in the visit also suggested a move to demonstrate a practical benefit from Mr Li's presence. Mr Li is to visit the Airbus factory at Toulouse on Saturday.

Government ministers have justified the visit as a chance for France to start catching up on its European partners, the US and Japan, in the race to win a stake in the Chinese market. Handicapped partly by existing defence contracts with Taiwan, France is only the 11th largest exporter to China worldwide, with 1.7 per cent of the market.

Under the agreement signed yesterday, China will buy 10 A320 Airbususes, with the possibility of another 30, and three A340s. If the whole deal comes to fruition, it is the highest contract China has awarded to a European aircraft builder.

Questions were being asked about the value of other agreements. A contract due to be signed for the establishment of a Citroën plant in Wuhan is to be financed largely with French credits. In addition, a number of hoped-for deals on gas distribution, electric cables and wheat exports were reported not to have been finalised.



ment says the costs hinder Germany's efforts to compete in the global economy and combat unemployment, at its highest levels since the Second World War. Germans miss work through illness an average of two weeks each year, costing companies 60bn marks (£27bn) annually, says the Federation of German Employers.

100-443888-100

July 15, 1954

Grave reunites lovers killed by Bosnia's tribal passions

EMMA DALY
Sarajevo

The young lovers whose front line murder came to symbolise the madness of the war waged in Bosnia for ethnic purity, were buried together in Sarajevo yesterday, fulfilling the hopes of their parents, three years on.

Admira Ismic was a Muslim and Bosko Brkic was a Serb. His father was dead and his family was in Serbia but he stayed in Sarajevo with Admira for the first year of the war, until she agreed that the future lay in a new life abroad.

In May 1993, they set off to cross the treacherous front line, believing that they had paid enough money to guarantee their safety from soldiers on both sides of the line.

But as they crossed the desolate stretch of tarmac in no man's land, surrounded by gutted buildings full of snipers, the two lovers, together since the age of 17, were met with a hail of gunfire. Bosko fell first and Admira crawled towards him for her last embrace.



Doomed lovers: Admira and Bosko whose romance defied their race loyalties; the couple lying dead in sniper alley; Admira's mother, Neri, at their new grave yesterday



For eight days the warring armies argued over who was to blame. Meanwhile, the lovers' bodies lay entwined on the sunlit street, as weeds pushed through the tarmac.

One morning they were gone. Bosnian Serb soldiers said they had rescued the bodies; but Muslim prisoners of war later said that the Serbs had sent them out instead to fetch the corpses.

"If to live means to hope, then there is a little hope for me to bury them together, as they lived together," Admira's father, Zijah, said at the time.

The first joint funeral, at a Serbian cemetery in Lukavica, just outside Sarajevo, was attended by Bosko's mother, Rada. Yesterday, friends and relatives gathered in the Lion cemetery on a spring day to pay their final farewells.

"If I could have, I would have organised music and trumpets, because I am so joyful to have returned them here," Zijah Ismic said.

He stepped up to the open grave and hurled in the first handful of earth. Friends and family followed suit. The crowd stood silently as the four gravediggers covered the wooden coffins, which lay side by side.

Mourners stepped forward to lay wreaths of bright daffodils and red carnations, while Mr Ismic led his family up the path, away from the valley, where a football pitch is obscured by war graves and where Nato soldiers camp in what is left of the Zetra Olympic skating stadium.

Admira's mother, Neri, paused to embrace the wooden grave markers, as her tears flowed.

The gravediggers sat nearby. And they also wept. They had performed the same task for hundreds of families throughout the war, in daylight under mortar fire, or at night, to hinder the snipers, but this was a harder task.

"A funeral is a funeral but this was a little more difficult," Ivan Maric said. "It's very sad because they were so young."

But at 25, the two were older than many of the other war victims buried in the Lion cemetery. Youth alone cannot explain their place in the mythology of the conflict.

To the people of Sarajevo and to the outside world, the journalists and film-makers who wanted to retell the story, the love of Admira and Bosko was a symbol of the normalcy of life in Sarajevo before the

war, when inter-ethnic unions were common. And their deaths personified the madness and the evil of those who would put such ties asunder. But what of their reburial?

"These should be the last war victims to be buried here - it must never happen again," Mr Maric said. It was a very Sarajevo affair - a Muslim and a Serb buried by a Croat. Mr Maric.

Bosko's family, however, was absent, because Admira's family was not able to contact Bosko's relatives across the former front line. His mother had earlier agreed through friends to the couple's exhumation and their reburial in Sarajevo. Her only stipulation was that they should occupy the same grave.

"Their death was a message," Mr Ismic said. "They were born the same year, they were living together, they died together. I just continued what they left behind. I respected their message."

It is far from clear that post-war Bosnia will be able to do the same.

Iran beats Turkey to draw on expulsions

HUGH POPE
Istanbul

A brazen Iran toughed it out against Turkey yesterday, turning a row over Tehran's links to a murderous Islamist gang in Istanbul into a diplomatic tit-for-tat and a debate over Turkey's links with Israel.

Tehran launched a pre-emptive strike when a senior Turkish official visiting Tehran, Ali Turyan, quietly asked Iran on Tuesday to withdraw four Iranian diplomats implicated last month by a Islamist hitman.

Reacting with speed, Iranian officials arrested several Turks and accused four Turkish political attachés of spying, illegal and immoral activities and conspiring against the Islamic republic.

A visibly angry spokesman for the Turkish foreign ministry yesterday denied the accusations and said Turkey had recalled the four diplomats "for their security". If Iran did not recall its own four they would be expelled, he said.

Mr Turyan had presented a dossier of Iranian links to a series of terrorist killings and kidnaps in Turkey to Iranian officials, but foreign minister Ali Akbar Velayati chose to ignore it in a statement.

Instead, Mr Velayati tried to turn the debate into one about Turkey's Middle East policy after it signed a military co-operation agreement with Israel in February.

"Iran is concerned over providing any facility to the Zionist regime on the grounds that such concessions are against the vital interests of the Islamic world and the region," he said.

Nothing could be more calculated to anger Turkey than this assumption that Shia Muslim Iran could speak for the Islamic world, while Turkey, which has a nominally secular government for its 65 million mainly Sunni Muslim people, could not. In injured tones, the Turkish foreign ministry issued a statement pointing out that Turkey had always voted with the Islamic world on resolutions calling for Israeli withdrawals from occupied territories.

Iran's baiting of Turkey coincides with a worsening of Turkey's relations with the Arab world over the Israeli agreement, the division of Euphrates river waters and the future of Iraq. "These 'old friends' voice disappointment at the way Turkey and Israel are developing relations independently of them," wrote a foreign affairs commentator, Gun Kul.

"It seems they are allowed to make peace with Israel, but it becomes 'unfriendly' when Turkey develops its own ties."

Other Turkish commentators rallied against Turkey's old rival Iran, accusing it of increasing support for Turkey's rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party, of trying to monopolise the Kurds of northern Iraq and trying to build a nuclear bomb.

The dispute illustrated again the awkwardness of Turkey's relationship with its Muslim neighbours, despite the dream of a Muslim commonwealth.

Diplomats also said it showed the success of Iran's strategy of intimidating its neighbours. "If Turkey has been careful so far, it is because they know exactly how much damage the Iranians can do if they want to," said one Western diplomat.

Pulitzer Prize for captured reporter

MICHAEL ELLIS
Reuters

Boston — David Rohde, a reporter on the *Christian Science Monitor*, who was captured and held by Bosnian Serbs last autumn after uncovering suspected mass graves, won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting yesterday.

Mr Rohde was the first Western journalist to visit and collect evidence from the graves, where human rights officials believe more than 3,000 Muslims were massacred and buried following the fall of the UN "safe haven" of Srebrenica to Bosnian Serbs in July 1995.

While taking pictures of human bones at one suspected grave site, he was arrested by Serb guards and charged with falsifying documents, facing a jail term for "criminal espionage charges".

After his capture became a central issue in the Balkan peace talks in Dayton, Ohio, Bosnian Serb authorities confirmed they were holding Mr Rohde. The US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, in-

tervened and Rohde was released after 10 days.

On his return to Boston, where the *Monitor* is published, Rohde wrote that two mass graves he visited were exactly as described by witnesses who said they survived "executions outside Srebrenica". "The layout was exactly like they said it was, and I found the graves. Everything matches," Rohde told Reuters in November.

"It was just like a regular field but one big, wide area had been dug up and filled back in again. On top of that, scattered across that were shoes, shirts and eyeglasses. And there was a separate pile of a hundred jackets - no bullets in the jackets, no indications of any fights in the area," he said.

Rohde, 28, was on assignment in Tuzla yesterday, researching a book about the massacre, and could not be reached for comment. In a press release, he said he was "happy to get the truth out about the Srebrenica massacre". Last week, he went back to the graves and filed a story which said the sites had been tampered with.

USE THE DAEWOOPRICE

APPROACH TO FIND THE REAL COST OF BUYING AND SERVICING A NEW CAR:

	Daewoo Espero 1.8 CDI 4dr	Ford Mondeo 1.8 LX 4dr	Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 LS 4dr	Toyota Carina E 1.8 GS 4dr	Nissan Primera 1.6 LX 4dr	You Fill In
LIST PRICE	£11,995	£13,500	£13,750	£13,149	£13,120	
Delivery	included	£470	£475	£445	£465	
12 months Road Tax	included	£140	£140	£140	£140	
3 year Servicing <small>at 36,000 miles including parts and labour</small>	included (up to 42,000 miles)	£314.17	£394.11	£449.11	£471.00	
3 year Comprehensive Warranty <small>to 57,000 miles</small>	included	£510	£332	included	included	
3 years Total AA Cover	included	with warranty	with warranty	included	£220	
Electronic ABS	included	£365	included	included	included	
Driver's Airbag	included	included	included	included	included	
Engine Immobiliser	included	included	included	included	included	
Metallic Paint	included	£230	£225	£249	£250	
Air Conditioning	included	£470	£875	£1,825	£1,395	
DAEWOOPRICE	£11,995	£15,999.17	£16,191.11	£16,257.11	£16,061.00	
Vs Espero 4dr 1.8 CDI	-	+33%	+34%	+35%	+33%	

The Daewooprice approach lets you work out the real cost of buying and running your car. We think that delivery, 12 months road tax and servicing (with wearing parts) should be included. As you can see, they are on a Daewoo. We can afford all this because we deal direct and don't pay any middlemen, passing the savings on to you. We phoned 3 competitor dealerships for each car to obtain our figures. Use our table to calculate the real cost of any car you may be interested in. All prices are correct at time of going to press.

Although you may get a discount on other cars it depends on your haggling skills. Daewoo's fixed prices range from £8,795 to £12,995. For more information call 0800 666 222.

The real cost of buying a new car? That'll be the Daewooprice.

DAEWOO

international

High stakes in Korean grudge match

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Seoul

"Congratulations!" said the student in the tracksuit, when I told him that I was reporting on South Korean politics. "This hasn't happened for years - you must be very happy." A few moments earlier, it should be explained, I had been doubled up on a Seoul pavement, coughing up phlegm into a wad of crumpled tissues. My throat was burning, my nose was running, and my tear gas-filled eyes felt as if they were liquefying on to my cheeks. "There hasn't been a riot like this since the 1980s," my new friend assured me, genuinely happy on my behalf. "And you caught it - that's... that's great."

Welcome to Seoul, and the 15th National Assembly elections of the Republic of Korea. A fortnight ago, when the campaign kicked off, it could hardly have been less promising, an uninspiring grudge match between three parties with identical policies and identically named leaders - Mr Kim, Mr Kim, and President Kim. Today, as voters go to the polls to elect their 299 National Assembly men, this is still going to be an election in which the conventional staples of democratic politics - ideological difference, policy debate - play little part. But what it lacks in substance it has made up for with the greatest quality of Korean politics - a sense of occasion.

Credit for this belongs to two groups which, in the last few days, have made a dramatic re-emergence into the political mainstream. The first is the students who, until a few years ago, were a significant political force in their own right. In 1987, a sequence of huge rallies, frequently ending in violent battles with riot police, played a large part in persuading the then president, Chun Doo-Hwan, to give in to popular pressure for democratic elections.

But since 1993, when the former dissident Kim Young-Sam became president, many of their grievances have been addressed. Chun Doo-Hwan is in prison, along with his successor, Roh Tae Woo, charged with bribery and with ordering a massacre of student protesters in 1980. A fortnight ago, however, on a demonstration against an increase in university tuition fees, a 20-year-old undergraduate died of a heart attack after a beating from the



Bordering on the ridiculous: North Korean troops (left) and a South Korean soldier film one other in Panmunjom yesterday

Photograph: Ahn Young-Joon

police. His funeral procession yesterday attracted 7,000 marchers who snaked through the city all day, blocking traffic, chanting anti-government slogans, and exchanging tear gas and eggs with the riot police.

How much impact this will have on the elections is hard to gauge, although for President Kim, the sight of thousands of youths chanting for his downfall cannot have been reassuring. What he loses to the students, however, he may gain from the intervention of another perennial force in South Korean politics: North Korea. Last

weekend, after renouncing its responsibilities in the armistice which ended the Korean War in 1953, the People's Army made three miniature sorties into its side of the supposedly demilitarised zone which separates the enemy states. Similar hi-jinks have gone on intermittently for years, provoking no more than average alarm. But this week, the president and his ministers have talked of little else - mindful, no doubt, of cautious older voters whose memories of the Korean War may induce them to opt for caution rather than change.

President Kim's New Korea Party will need all the help it can muster by mid-poll, it stands to lose its present majority, to fall between 100 and 130 of the 299 seats. The principal beneficiary will be the second of the three Kims - Kim Dae-Jung, another former dissident and the president's one-time ally, whose National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) is running roughly neck and neck with the NKP. If the NKP can edge ahead, then it stands a chance of cobbling together a majority with the help of a handful of

independents - although this would be a humiliating blow to the intensely proud president. If not, they will be forced into an alliance with Kim Jong-Il - the leader of the United Liberal Democrats (ULD), Kim Jong-Pil. At this point the contest would start to get interesting, and the true significance of the election would be revealed - a contest marginal to the great struggle, the battle for the presidency. Apart from holding up budgets and legislation, the power of the National Assembly pales

in comparison with that of the president. Kim Young-Sam's single five-year term will come to an end in 1998. Elections will be held in December next year and both his rival Kims are in the running. Although Kim Young-Sam cannot stand for re-election he is desperate to pass on his office to a political sympathiser, and for more than the usual reasons. As the first modern president without a military background, he cherishes an image of himself as the father of his country's democracy. His place in history could easily be

threatened if one of his former adversaries among the Kims was to take his place. If the ULD is required to come on board to bail out the NKP, however, Kim Jong-Pil has made it clear that he will do so only in return for an endorsement in the presidential elections, jumping the queue of younger NKP loyalists which Kim Young-Sam has lined up. In that case, the President will be left with a choice - either muddle along in a minority, or yield his place in history to an old rival.

Letters, page 18

Hopes for deal over US bases in Japan

Tokyo (AP) — America and Japan are close to agreement on measures to ease the row over US forces in Okinawa, the American Ambassador Walter Mondale said yesterday.

But he added that he was not sure Okinawans will be satisfied with measures to cut back military landholdings and otherwise reduce friction over troops on the southern island.

Mr Mondale said recent tensions involving Taiwan and North Korea reinforced the importance of the US-Japan security relationship, to be reaffirmed during President Clinton's visit to Japan next week.

The rape of a 12-year-old girl by three American servicemen last August ignited protests against US bases on Okinawa, which host more than half the 47,000 US troops in Japan. Amid the outcry, a joint US-Japan committee was set up in November to look into ways to consolidate bases on Okinawa.

Both US embassy and Japanese foreign ministry officials refused to comment on a report in the *Yomiuri* newspaper saying the pact would call for America to return 12,350 acres to landowners on Okinawa. The report said the plan does not call for the return of Futenma Air Base, which has topped the Okinawans' priority list because it is in the middle of a city.

US officials also have agreed to a ban on uniformed marches off base and stricter restrictions on night flights. Mr Mondale was uncertain whether he expected the moves to satisfy the Okinawans, but he said the US had "really tried" to address their concerns.

"There's been more effort in the last six months than in the last 20 years," he said, adding that a reassessment of the US military role was long overdue.

Both governments have said US troop levels in Japan would remain constant, though some troops may be moved to other parts of the country. Okinawa's government has drawn up plans for the complete withdrawal of troops from the island by 2015.

Meanwhile, more than 3,000 people living near an air base outside Tokyo yesterday filed a law suit demanding 3.3bn yen (£20m) compensation from both governments for noise.

Direct lifeline is thrown to savers

Daily Express 31.1.96

Time to bail out from the banks and building societies.

	£1,000-£2,499	£2,500-£4,999	£5,000-£9,999	£10,000-£14,999	£15,000-£24,999	£25,000-£49,999
Direct Line Instant Access Account	4.60%	4.60%	5.00%	5.60%	5.80%	6.00%
Woolwich Premier 90 (90 Day Notice)	N/A	N/A	3.50%	4.15%	4.15%	5.00%
Yorkshire Building Society Key 90 Plus	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.60%	4.60%	5.00%
Halifax Solid Gold (90 Day Notice)	3.30%	3.30%	3.60%	4.35%	4.35%	4.35%
Lloyds Bank Investment (90 Day Notice)	N/A	N/A	N/A	4.25%	4.25%	4.65%
Barclays Bank Select (90 Day Notice)	N/A	4.45%	4.45%	4.70%	4.70%	4.75%

All rates are gross* and correct at 3/4/96

Why choose between instant access and high interest when you can have both? In fact our new savings plan has rates so high they even beat the 90 day notice accounts shown above. Haven't saved up enough to get the rate you want? Why not pool your savings with up to five other people and you'll all benefit from the rate the combined balance offers even though you run your accounts separately. So if you want a better return on your savings, call one of our hotlines below.

0181 667 1121

LONDON

0161 833 1121

MANCHESTER

0141 221 1121

GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday. Please quote ref. IND7

Direct Line Financial Services Limited, 250 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5BH is a member of the Deposit Protection Scheme established under the Banking Act 1987 (as amended). Payments under the scheme are limited to 90% of a depositor's total deposits subject to a maximum payment to any one depositor of £18,000 (or ECU 20,000 if greater). Further details of the scheme are available on request. *The open rate is the rate paid without the deduction of income tax. All rates shown are subject to variation and are based on annual payments of interest. Direct Line and the red telephone are the trade marks of Direct Line Insurance plc and used with the permission of Direct Line Insurance plc. For your added security, all telephone calls will be recorded and the recording kept secure. We may also monitor telephone calls with the aim of improving our service to you.

DIRECT LINE
SAVINGS

Setting the standards in personal computing.



Whatever sort of day you have, trust Viglen to make your life easier.

A range of PCs with a unique combination of leading edge technology and tremendous value, every one of Viglen's products has built-in upgradability for future developments and lifetime technical support - your guarantee of peace of mind!

Little wonder that Viglen's products have won countless awards time and time again, or that Viglen is a leading supplier not only to businesses all over the UK but also to government, public sector, education and the home market.

And because you're buying direct from a leading British manufacturer, you're also guaranteed unbeatable value for money, delivered right to your door.

See how Viglen can change your life, whether you use your PC for work or for play.

Prices for a Viglen Multimedia system with a 75MHz Pentium® Processor start from only £1199 (inc delivery + vat) and go all the way up to £2299 (inc delivery + vat) for a fully featured top of the range Ganic PCI Multimedia PC with 166MHz Pentium® Processor.

Call 0181 758 7000 to place your order or for your free copy of the Viglen Direct Guide, and we guarantee you'll never look back.

THE VIGLEN HOME MULTIMEDIA PC
75MHz PENTIUM®
PROCESSOR

- Viglen Controller Executive ES System
- 5MB RAM
- 540MB HD
- 16 SVGA Colour Monitor
- Microsoft Mouse
- Quad speed CD-ROM Drive
- PCI Graphics Card
- Stereo Speakers & Microphone
- Microsoft Windows 95
- Six Software Titles as shown

£1199 inc delivery + VAT
(£1005.43 net delivery + VAT)3 DAY DELIVERY
We have a selection of model configurations. Multimedia models which you can deliver within 3 days from date of payment. Simply phone us for more details.Tel 0181 758 7000
Fax 0181 758 7080

Viglen Limited, Viglen House, Alport Lane, Alport, Middlesbrough HA0 1DX.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND YOUR FREE COPY OF THE VIGLEN DIRECT GUIDE PHONE OR RETURN THE COUPON

Name _____ Title _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Telephone _____

Please send me more information on the Viglen range of personal computers.

☐ Business/Education use ☐ Home Personal use

Compaq, Conix and Viglen are trademarks of Viglen Limited. Microsoft, MS-DOS, Windows 95 and the Microsoft Ready to Run logo are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other trademarks are acknowledged.

Nuclear danger
Yeltsin

Polish P

Save money
home insurance
a little extra

0800 3

Nuclear dangers: A summit in Moscow on safety issues in the East could be used to focus attention on weapons in the West

Yeltsin delivers first salvo in missile debate

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

Just over a week before he plays host to the Group of Seven industrial nations at a major summit on nuclear safety, Boris Yeltsin yesterday sought to steal some early limelight by urging Western countries to keep their nuclear missiles on their own territories.

He combined his appeal with a reassurance that Moscow would this year finish withdrawing the former Soviet nuclear arsenal to within Russia's borders, with the return of the last weapons from Ukraine and Belarus.

His proposal – which would require an overhaul of Nato nuclear thinking were it to go ahead – was greeted coolly by Western diplomats, although it is likely to be on the agenda at the summit on 19-20 April.

The United States is the only country, apart from Russia, with nuclear weapons on foreign soil – principally aircraft-delivered bombs, which are stored in Germany and other European countries. Most analysts thought it unlikely the US would accept the idea, largely because it would mean diminishing America's role in providing the Nato nuclear umbrella. A spokeswoman for the US State Department said that it was unable to react to Russia's suggestion until it received more details.

Mr Yeltsin's suggestion appears to be part of his effort to play on the large anti-Nato sentiment in Russia as the battle to win votes in the presidential election in June gathers momentum. Russia's anxiety about Nato expansion has deepened – as Yuri Ushakov, a senior official with the Russian Foreign Ministry, made clear yesterday when he addressed a security conference in Moscow. “We at the Foreign Ministry understand that the east Europeans feel drawn to Western civilisation, but we cannot understand where Nato comes into it. It seems to us that such structures as the European Union, the Council of Europe...

are contributing to the status of a member of the European family to a far greater degree than the military alliance, Nato.” If Nato expands eastwards, Russia's military would “reasonably seek and achieve a dramatic increase in defence spending and a revision of the basic arms control agreements”, he warned. “The danger is there.”

Nor, he said, could Russia comprehend the east European view that entry into Nato would remove some “grey areas of instability” – areas of insecurity that Moscow believes no longer exist. The reverse would be true, as they would find themselves “on the frontier of confrontation”, he argued.

Exactly what this “frontier” would comprise is unclear. Some analysts have suggested that Russia's response to Nato's eastward expansion would be to delay withdrawing ex-Soviet missiles from neighbouring Belarus, or even deploying more weapons there. However – despite the new integration pact

between the two nations – the Russian military is believed to be opposed to this idea, not least because of their concern that the weapons could be used to threaten Russia in the future. Russia's sensitivity about Nato appears to flow from an assumption in Moscow that nuclear missiles would be deployed on the territory of any new Nato member, although there is scant evidence that this would be the case. Poland, for example, is unlikely to welcome that prospect, partly because it would immediately find itself the target of Russian weapons.

But Mr Yeltsin's comments will add to a debate in Nato about how to handle eastern expansion. While the alliance has accepted that it is unlikely to store nuclear weapons in peace-time on the territory of new members, a further commitment to remove them from countries where they are already stored would revive a damaging debate about the role of nuclear weapons in Europe.



Parting shot: Boris Yeltsin (centre) and President Kwasniewski (right) pass a guard of honour at the end of the Polish leader's visit to Russia

Polish PM calms Russia over Nato

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland completed a difficult three-day visit to Moscow yesterday, acknowledging he had failed to allay Russian suspicions about Poland's desire to join Nato.

“Only a blind person could expect Russia and Poland to agree on the question of Nato. The important thing is that we were able to talk about it,” Mr Kwasniewski said.

Russia has long opposed the admission into the western alliance of its former Warsaw Pact satellites, proposing instead a joint western-Russian security guarantee of central and

eastern Europe. Recently, however, the Kremlin has indicated that it may not object to the inclusion of Poland and a couple of other countries in Nato, provided they are not fully integrated into its military structures and security arrangements.

Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary have rejected both proposals, insisting they are sovereign states with the right to choose which alliances they want to join and on what terms. At the same time, Mr Kwasniewski and Czech and Hungarian leaders have emphasised they do not view Nato membership as a mechanism for isolating Russia.

“Poland does not want to be

in Nato against Russia. It does not want to be a frontline country in a new Europe,” the Polish president said. “If there are good ties between Russia and Poland, this is good for Europe. The path we are going down towards democracy and a market economy is very wide, and there is room for Russia, Poland and all of Europe there.”

Mr Kwasniewski's trip to Moscow was his first since he defeated Lech Walesa in presidential elections last November. He held talks with President Boris Yeltsin on Tuesday but the only concrete agreement signed during his visit was an accord on Polish-Russian youth exchanges.

Other proposed agreements

on visa-free travel and the repatriation of people who illegally cross the Polish-Russian border failed to materialise. There was some discussion of economic issues, including a proposal to create a free-trade zone in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, bordering Poland, but no formal accords.

The lack of more substantial results undermined the recent strains in Polish-Russian relations. These were highlighted last January by the resignation of Poland's former prime minister, Jozef Oleksy, over allegations that he had been a Soviet and Russian agent.

On Tuesday, Mr Yeltsin blamed Mr Walesa for the poor atmosphere, saying: “Recently

we hadn't got on well with Walesa.” The former Polish president retorted that relations had cooled because “Russia was testing its hegemonic tendencies, while I was resolutely defending Poland's interests.”

Mr Kwasniewski, a former Communist turned left-of-centre democrat, made a point during his visit of holding talks with Gennady Zyuganov, the Russian Communist leader who says he would like to restore the Soviet Union. Mr Kwasniewski wanted a close-up look at the man who is favourite to defeat Mr Yeltsin in next June's presidential elections and whose policies could greatly affect Poland's destiny.

Agency urges closure of risky reactors

ADRIAN BRIDGE
Central Europe Correspondent

A decade after the Chernobyl disaster, the risk of another nuclear power plant catastrophe continues to cast an ominous shadow over Europe and most of the former Soviet Union.

Most anxiety is centred on the 15 reactors of the Chernobyl type – known by the Russian acronym RBMK – which are still in operation in Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania.

Despite improvements to the plants since the accident, nuclear power experts believe they still represent an acute danger. According to specialists at the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), they should all be shut down – or, failing that, significantly further upgraded.

A report issued by the United States energy ministry earlier this month declared that many of the reactors still in service in eastern Europe and former

Soviet republics had faulty emergency cooling systems which could lead to massive radioactive leakages at any time.

The ministry report singled out the first and third reactors at Chernobyl itself as the worst of the lot, saying that the state of the site was now worse than it had been prior to the accident on 26 April 1986.

In addition to the RBMK light water gas-cooled reactors, experts remain extremely worried by another Soviet model, the WWER pressurised water reactor, which also remains in widespread use. The IAEA has singled out the Bohunice and Kozloduy plants in Slovakia and Bulgaria respectively as being particularly dangerous.

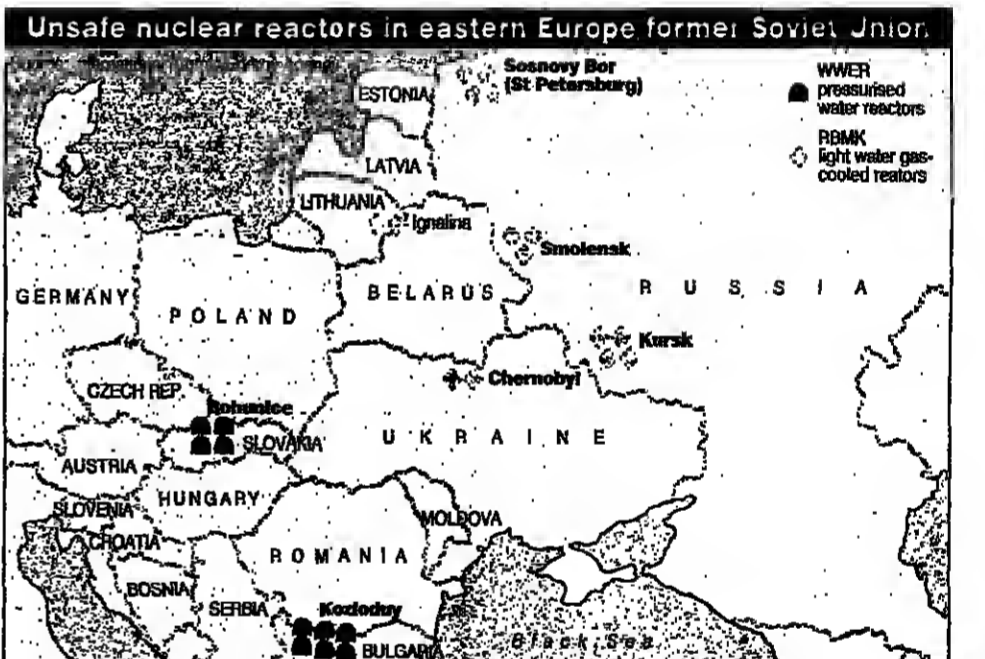
The subject of improving nuclear power plant safety features heavily at a four-day conference in Vienna this week, attended by politicians and scientists from West and East.

Its recommendations, in turn, will be forwarded to leaders of the world's seven richest nations meeting in Moscow later this month for a summit on nuclear issues.

Although most agree the best solution would be to close the most dangerous reactors, the countries operating them say they cannot shut them down because they depend on them for their power supplies.

The cost of upgrading the RBMK plants alone to Western safety standards is estimated at around \$100m (£66m)–\$150m per unit – money which cannot be afforded by countries from the East and which has not been forthcoming from the West.

The two operational reactors at Chernobyl itself, however, will almost certainly close by the year 2000, in return for which Ukraine is set to receive more than \$3bn compensation from the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations.



Save money on your home insurance and spend a little extra on your home.



0800 333 800

Phone for a free quote weekdays 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-2pm. Not available in Northern Ireland.

Africa nuclear pact puts Israel under pressure

JONATHAN WRIGHT
Reuters

Cairo – Africa today joins Latin America and the South Pacific in an expanding club of zones free of nuclear weapons when 53 African states and the five big nuclear powers sign the Treaty of Pelindaba in Cairo.

The choice of venue, in the only African country which borders Israel, is another turn of the screw in an Arab campaign to persuade the Jewish state to open up its nuclear programme to international inspection and eventually dismantle it.

The naming of the treaty, after the site where South Africa developed and then dismantled its own nuclear weapons, also sends Israel a message that unilateral nuclear disarmament and regional peace can go hand in hand.

The treaty, which bans nuclear weapons from the African continent and the islands around it, specifically advocates a similar agreement covering the Middle East states.

“The parties [recognise] that the establishment of other NWFZs [nuclear-weapon-free zones], especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of states party to the African NWFZ,” says the treaty.

For the host country Egypt it is also a step towards banning all weapons of mass destruction – nuclear, chemical or biological – from the countries in its neighbourhood.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will invoke that target in his keynote address to the signing ceremony, officials said.

“The treaty is doubtless a his-

toric step, which must be followed by the next logical step – clearing the Middle East of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction,” the Egyptian government newspaper *al-Gomhuria* said yesterday.

The five declared nuclear states – Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States – will sign protocols to cooperate with the treaty and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against any part of Africa.

France and Spain will sign a separate protocol covering the Canary Islands and two towns on the coast of Morocco in the case of Spain, and the Indian Ocean islands of Mayotte and Reunion in the case of France.

But in a concession to the big powers, the treaty leaves each state to set its own policy on visits by foreign ships or overflights by foreign aircraft which may carry nuclear arms.

In another let-out clause, the treaty gives each state the right to withdraw from the treaty “if it decides that extraordinary events... have jeopardised its supreme interests.”

But signatories must disclose any capability they have to make nuclear weapons, then destroy these arms and the facilities for making them under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). They also promise to reach safeguard agreements with the IAEA, equivalent to those under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty, which all African states already support. Israel, which refuses to sign the non-proliferation treaty, is believed to possess 200 nuclear warheads.

CELLNET
INTRODUCE
FRESHLY
SQUEEZED
ORANGE.

60
minutes maximum for
£29.38 on talk 60*

orange

125
MINUTES MAXIMUM FOR
£26.44 ON REGULAR CALLER PLUS*

CELLNET

RING 0800 21 4000 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THE NET THAT SETS YOU FREE.



*Based on equivalent recommended tariffs. 125 mins max at off-peak calls. Minute charges when peak-time calls are made. Telecom Securities Cellular Radio.

obituaries / gazette

Richard Condon

Richard Condon started out promoting *Snow White and Dumbo*, went on to act as press agent for some of Hollywood's biggest stars then, at the age of 43, turned himself, with *The Manchurian Candidate*, into a best-selling novelist. And a best-selling writer he remained, with over 25 novels to his credit over a career which spanned almost 40 more years. His most recent novel, *Prizzi's Money*, the fourth in a highly acclaimed black comic series which began with *Prizzi's Honor* (1982), was published in 1993 when he was 78.

Born in Manhattan in 1915, Condon spent over 20 years as a Hollywood publicist, first for Walt Disney (he saw *Fantasia* 13 times) then for just about every other major studio. Based in New York, his job was to take care of visiting Hollywood stars in town to promote their films. "It was the publicist's responsibility to see that they were entertained, a euphemism for pimping," he once remarked.

That kind of experience gave him a healthy cynicism and an understanding of corporate systems where the power is never where it appears to be. In 1957, after three years, he quit his high-pressure job to become a writer. "I was 42 and I decided I had to get out - that publicity work is so will-o'-the-wisp."

Two years later he caught the mood of the time superbly with a mesmerising thriller, *The Manchurian Candidate*, which married Cold War paranoia with Freudian and behaviourist psychology in its story of a United States war hero brainwashed to assassinate

his stepfather, a presidential candidate.

The release in 1962 of the award-winning film starring Laurence Harvey as the war hero and Frank Sinatra as his army buddy assured the book's world-wide success. Sinatra also owned the rights to the film and after President Kennedy was assassinated withdrew it, supposedly for its prescient foretelling of the Kennedy assassination (it was 25 years before it was seen



Condon: 'the American Balzac'

on the cinema screen again).

Condon's writing often attracted that kind of controversy. *The Manchurian Candidate* bore no relation to the Kennedy assassination but he later wrote three novels based on that event. The best known, *Winter Kills* (1974), was in 1979 made into an ingenious film starring Jeff Bridges and directed by John Huston. Although it got rave US reviews it was pulled from cinemas after a couple of weeks and simply disappeared.

Condon believed that "Senator Edward Kennedy's dislike

of the film was made known". Coincidentally or not, the company behind the financing of the film also got \$90m of defence contracts each year.

A satirist and black humorist, Condon was dubbed "the American Balzac" for his prolific output of books either about US politics or, later, the Mafia. He distinguished between them in this way: "If you're writing about the Mafia it's based on a rock bed of reality. If you're writing about politicians you're writing about marshmallows and smoke."

Money, however was the unifying theme of all his books. A proponent of what one critic called the "Higher Corrupt", he understood exactly what he was doing. "Satire can only survive by holding a very slippery edge of reality. You have to try to make people believe in what you're writing about, even if you're mocking what they have accepted." But he could be vicious, as he was in *Emperor of America* (1990), his satire on Ronald Reagan and Ollie North. He genuinely disliked Reagan, referring to him on another occasion as a "turd-kicking actor cowboy" who was perfectly cast as an idiot.

He was almost 70 when he shifted his attention away from politics to the Mafia with *Prizzi's Honor*, an original, inspired tale of a hit-man who falls for a hit-woman. It re-established him, especially when in 1985 John Huston made a successful film from it starring Jack Nicholson, Kathleen Turner and Anjelica Huston, who won an Oscar for her performance as the scorned woman.

Condon wanted Robert De Niro to play the part of the hit-man and hilariously opposed Huston's choice of Jack Nicholson on the grounds that Nicholson looked "too German". He later admitted he had been wrong. "Never ask a writer for advice on casting, Nicholson was wonderful."

He went on to write three more novels about the Prizzi family (family motto: "Fear was the first creator of Gods in the world"), *Prizzi's Family* (1986), *Prizzi's Glory* (1988) and *Prizzi's Money* (1993).

Condon lived away from America for many years: he moved to Mexico City on the proceeds of the film rights to *The Manchurian Candidate* in the early 1960s, and later lived in Switzerland and for 10 years in a Georgian mansion in Ireland. He moved back to America in the late 1980s - to be near the grandchildren on whom he doted. He claimed Dallas was the most foreign of all his homes.

He was married for almost 60 years to Evelyn Hunt Condon, a former model. She was first editor of each of his manuscripts. Her job was to correct what he admitted was "lousy" punctuation. He also wrote a Mexican cookbook, *Ole Mole*, with Wendy Bennett, one of his two daughters. He claimed it was the only Mexican cookbook "written, test-cooked and eaten" in Ireland, and that it has the longest introduction (55 pages of autobiography) ever written for such a work.

A solemn-looking but very jovial man, Condon was a

Angela Lansbury and Laurence Harvey in *The Manchurian Candidate*, the 1962 film of Condon's book

Photograph: Ronald Grant Archive

gifted raconteur despite the fact that he suffered all his life from a bad stammer. He thought it had been induced by his father, who shouted all the time. He considered his father "a negative force", his mother "a benevolent" one in his life, but it was his father he credited with his writing skills. "My father used to write me three postcards a week because he wasn't able to communicate

emotion verbally. My ease with writing comes, I'm sure, from that."

Although he took his writing seriously, he also had fun with it. He invented the International Confederation of Book Actors: "comprising people who would have acted in movies, radio or opera if we hadn't been too busy writing." All that meant in practice was that he used his friends' names for characters in his

novels. He would send these friends certificates of performance when he borrowed their names in this way.

Condon admitted to only three of the seven deadly sins: greed, wrath and gluttony. However, in his seventies, a pacemaker notwithstanding, he wondered if he was also getting slothful - he wrote for "only" five hours a day. There was nothing else he preferred

to do. "I honestly love writing. I can't understand those writers who say they suffer so much when they're writing. I think it is the best recreation possible."

Peter Guttridge

Richard Thomas Condon, writer born New York 18 March 1915; married 1938 Evelyn Hunt (two daughters); died Dallas 9 April 1996.

Donald Adams

Adams and Marie McLaughlin in *The Two Widows*, 1993

Photograph: Clive Berda

The bass Donald Adams had virtually three careers - first as a straight actor, secondly, as a principal singer with the D'Oyly Carte company and in Gilbert and Sullivan for All, a touring company that he co-founded; finally, as an opera singer, appearing with all the major British companies and several in Europe and the United States.

His favourite Gilbert and Sullivan character was the Pirate King in *Pirates of Penzance*, because "it's every schoolboy's idea of a pirate king, a good part to act, with some fine mock-Verdi to sing." He also liked playing Sir Roderick Murgatroyd in *Ruद्रidge* and was particularly fond of Murgatroyd's song "The ghosts' high noon".

As an opera singer he excelled in comic parts such as Dr Bartolo (both *Mozart's* and *Rossini's*), *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Barber of Seville* and Quince in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, but could surmount up a surprising amount of venom for, say, Montserone in Verdi's *Rigoletto* or Dikoi in Janacek's *Kapka Kubanova*. Each role he sang was meticulously presented, with the vocal and dramatic sides

of the character perfectly coordinated.

Donald Adams was born and brought up in Bristol. He became a chorister in the cathedral where, at the age of 16, he played Thomas à Becket in *St. Eliot's Murder in the Cathedral*. He served in the Army during the Second World War, spending the last two years of his service as resident director of the Army Repertory Theatre at Catterick Camp.

In 1949 he made his professional debut at the Embassy Theatre in Swiss Cottage, London. After two years at the Great Yarmouth Rep, he appeared as the Irish washerwoman, Mrs Ginnocchio, with Arthur Lucan and Kitty McShane in the music-hall sketch "Old Mother Riley and her Daughter". While they were playing at the Chelsea Palace in 1952, Lucan suggested that Adams should audition for the D'Oyly Carte.

Adams joined the chorus, sang small parts and understudied 26 roles. His first major role was Colonel Calverley in *Puissance* (1952). In 1953 he became a principal bass, singing Dick Deadeye (*HMS Pinferry*), the Pirate King, the Earl of

Mountararat (*Jolanthe*), Arac (*Princess Ida*), the title role in *Mikado*, Sir Roderick Murgatroyd and Sergeant Meryll (*The Yeomen of the Guard*). He also married Muriel Harding, who was a soprano with the D'Oyly Carte company from 1945 to 1954.

From 1963 much of his energy was concentrated on Gilbert and Sullivan for All. In January 1969 he left the D'Oyly Carte, who were playing in San Francisco at the time, and for several years toured with Gilbert and Sullivan for All in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Far East. The company also made several films. He wrote and appeared in the one-man shows *Adams Takes An Evening With Donald Adams* and *Another Evening With Donald Adams*.

His transfer to the world of opera was gradual: after singing Alfred Doolittle in *My Fair Lady* for Scottish Opera in 1963, he sang the title role of the *Mikado* in Chicago (in a production directed by Peter Sellars, then aged 25), followed by Baron Mirko Zela in *The Merry Widow* and the Theatre Director and the Banker in *Lulu*. Also in 1983 he made his

Covent Garden debut as a Frontier Guard in *Boris Godunov*, later singing Quince in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Colonel Frank, the prison governor in *Die Fledermaus*, a role that suited his comic talents to perfection.

He first appeared with English National Opera in 1983, as the unpleasant old bully Dikoi in *Kapka Kubanova*, and with Welsh National Opera the same year, as Montserone. At Glyndebourne he sang Dikoi in 1988, and for Glyndebourne Touring Opera, Rossini's Dr Bartolo, a role he also sang in Amsterdam.

Engagements now followed thick and fast: over the next few years he sang the Sacristan in *Tosca* at Geneva; the Mikado in Los Angeles; Mozart's Bartolo, and Pooch-Bah from the *Mikado* for ENO; Quince and the lawyer Swallow in *Peter Grimes* - a splendidly pompous characterisation - at Glyndebourne; and Baron Ochs in *Der Rosenkavalier* (1990) for Welsh National Opera. This last performance was a triumph for the singer, now 62 years of age, and no longer in his finest of fresh voice, but who made up for any vocal deficiency by the

marvellously subtle way he handled the text. The following year he made a superb Schigolch in *Lulu* for Canadian Opera in Toronto, and in 1992 at San Francisco sang Nick Bottom (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*). Unfortunately he did not sing this role in Britain, though he repeated it in 1995 at the Ravenna Festival.

Returning to Covent Garden in 1993, he gave excellent performances of Badger and the Priest in *The Cunning Little Vixen*, while for ENO he sang Mumi in Smetana's *The Two Widows*. His final role for ENO, in March 1996, was *Don Pasquale*. As with Baron Ochs, it was perhaps a shame that he did not sing this part earlier in his career. However, he gave, as always, a complete and rounded performance, broadly comic but, by implication, sad, even tragic at times; though not in his very best voice, he carried off the comic patter duet with Alan Opie's Doctor Malatesta in superb style.

Elizabeth Forbes

Donald Adams, born Bristol 20 December 1925; married Muriel Harding (deceased; one daughter); died Norwich 8 April 1996.

Professor Bela Szegedi

Bela Szegedi was one of the remarkably large number of Hungarians to achieve distinction in a career in physics. Like many of these he spent most of his working life outside Hungary. His own contribution was to the extremely successful and important post-war effort to develop the basic ideas necessary for understanding the physical properties of solids. A significant part of this effort was directed towards understanding in detail the effects of steady electric fields and of light on transparent crystals such as rock-salt. This was the subject of much of his work at the universities of Bristol, Liverpool and Reading. He was born in Budapest in 1912, the second son of

landowners, and the grandson of a judge. Although he spoke only rarely of his early life, it was clear that he placed great value on the rich cultural background he had enjoyed and on his broad general education, extending from science to Latin and Greek. This was the basis of the breadth of knowledge and wide range of intellectual interests which enriched his life. He went to Switzerland for his higher education and obtained his PhD in physical chemistry at the University of Zurich shortly before the Second World War. He came to England early in 1939 and until 1941 worked on the application of spectroscopic methods to medical problems, first at St

Bartholomew's Hospital, in London, and then in Cambridge. From 1941 to 1945 he did war work in an industrial laboratory.

Szegedi then switched to theoretical physics and from 1945 to 1948 carried out theoretical research in the H.H. Wills Physics Laboratory at Bristol University. His work there on the properties of ionic crystalline solid materials led to his deriving two key relations between dielectric, elastic and vibrational properties. These relations, known universally as the Szegedi relations, already marked him as a theoretical physicist of importance.

From 1948 to 1962 he was on the staff of the Theoretical

Physics Department of Liverpool University, where he devoted considerable attention to the torsional (twisting) vibrations of long chain molecules, as well as extending his work on ionic crystals. His ideas on polarisation processes in crystals, in particular his clear perception of the role of the deformations of ions by forces from their near neighbours, were vital for the advances which he, and others influenced by him, subsequently made in the understanding of the motion of atoms in crystals. His important contributions to this field included studies of the effects of impurities on the properties of crystals, a line of investigation which he pursued

much further in the Physics Department of Reading University, where from 1962 to his retirement in 1977 he was successively Lecturer, Reader and Professor.

At Reading his own work and work in collaboration, particularly with his colleague Roy Leigh, was very fruitful. Much of this work was prompted by experimental studies in progress there on vibrational properties of impurities in diamond and semi-conducting crystals. The critical examination of the theories then used in the interpretation of such experiments led to important new insights. He demonstrated the limitations of information about vibrations in perfect crystals

obtainable from the neutron scattering experiments being conducted in laboratories across the world.



Szegedi: clear perception

Even a much fuller account of the results of his work would be incomplete if it did not comment on the style of his investigations. Szegedi's aim was always deep understanding of the problem in hand and he was little concerned about how long it took to achieve that understanding. As a result his publications were clear and rigorous and invariably of substantial significance.

Until her early death in 1965, he shared his keen interest in art, music and the theatre with his wife, Lois. His other recreations included chess and bridge, but conversation was his main pleasure. He was an attached member of one of the University Halls at Reading

and up to very recently was a regular attendee at guest nights. He also enjoyed conversation with friends over coffee. A typical evening would start with conversation, but this would be followed by viewing a film from his collection of videos. His preference was for musicals, comedies and histories. It is perhaps not impertinent to speculate that he enjoyed these mainly as relaxation but also as bringing him from time to time, in a light-hearted way, echoes of his early years in Hungary.

Charles McCombie

Bela Szegedi, physicist; born Budapest 2 August 1912; married 1946 Lois Yearley (deceased); died Reading 17 March 1996.

BIRTHS

ROSS: On 1 April 1996, to Mary (née Keenan) and Michael Kiloran Ross, a son, Carlo Keenan Ross.

SCHOFFIELD: On Easter Sunday, 7 April 1996, to Susanah (née Tickler) and the late John Schofield, a daughter, Charlotte Katharine Lucy.

DEATHS

CLOUGH: Gordon, writer and broadcaster, peacefully at home on 6 April 1996, aged 61. Much-loved husband of Carolyn, father of Jonathan, Penny, Elizabeth and Eleanor, son of Annie, brother of Peter, grandfather and colleague. Funeral at St Mary Magdalen, Wandsworth Common, Trinity Road, London SW17 on Tuesday 16 April at 2pm. Flowers to Mears & Co. 0181-874 7698 or donations c/o Dr Robert Wilson, National Heart and Lung Institute, Dovehouse Street, London SW3 6NR.

CUMMINGS: Trevor William, on 2 April 1996, aged 39 years. A dearly-loved son, brother, nephew, cousin, uncle, grandfather and friend. Trevor will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

LAW: David, died 4 April 1996. Well-loved by all and sorely missed. Funeral service at City of London Cemetery, Manor Park, London E12 on Friday 12 April at 4.15. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to British Heart Foundation or Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

MOORE: Roy (born Headmaster of St Michael's C of E High School, Cheltenham), suddenly at his home at Westborough, Bolton, on 2 April 1996, aged 70 years. His funeral service was held at St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Nantwich, Flintshire, last Saturday, 6 April 1996.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2016, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line (VAT extra). They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr J. E. Sale and Dr C. J. Patient

The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs George Sale, of Meole, Wirral, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stafford Patient, of Ipswich, Suffolk.

Birthdays

Miss Janet Allen, former Headmistress, Benenden School, 60, Viscount Buckmaster, former diplomat, 75; Mr Joseph Bunt-Stuart, former chairman, Robert Fleming Holdings, 66; Professor Raymond Carr, former Warden, St Antony's College, Oxford, 77; Mr Germaine de Peyer, clarinetist, 70; Sir Harold De Ville, former chairman, Meyer International, 71; Mr Clive Eton, scriptwriter, 66; Mr James Alan Fern, director, British Board of Film Classification, 66; Mr Ronald Fraser, actor, 66; Miss Jill Gascoine, actress, 59; Mr Joel Grey, actor and singer, 64; Mr Michael Hindley, MEP, 49; Sir Robert Macdonald, Honorary President, Stoddard Holdings, 88; Mr Derek Martin, actor, 63; Dame Anne Poole, former chief nursing officer, Department of

Health, 62; Mr Richard Wainwright, former MP, 78; Professor Michael Wright, mechanical engineer and chairman, 600 Group, 49.

Anniversaries

Births: Marguerite d'Angoulême, Queen of Navarre, 1492; Sir John Elliot, parliamentarian, 1592; Christopher Smart, poet, 1722; James Parkinson, physician and paleontologist, discoverer of Parkinson's disease, 1755; Jean-Baptiste Lully, miniature painter, 1767; George Canning, statesman, 1780; Manuel José Quintana, writer and politician, 1772; Marie-Desiré Martin-Beauleu, composer, 1791; Edward Everett, clergyman and statesman, 1794; Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson, soldier and orientalist, 1810; Sir Charles Halle (Carl Halle), pianist and conductor, 1819; Ferdinand Lassalle, socialist, 1825; James Augustus Grant, travel writer and explorer, 1827; Walter James Macquenn-Pope, theatrical historian, 1888; Dean Goodenrich Achenson, lawyer and statesman, 1893; Glenway Wescott, novelist and poet, 1901; Norman McLaren, film animator, 1914; Alberto Ginastera, composer, 1916. Deaths: Llewellyn Updown, Prince of Wales, 1246; Donato Bramante (d'Agnolo), architect, 1514; Sir

Thomas Wyatt, conspirator, executed 1554; Antoine Coyne, painter, 1661; Henry James Byron, playwright, actor and editor, 1864; Charles Reade, novelist and playwright, 1884; Edgar Jepson, novelist, 1938; Freeman Wills Crofts, detective story writer, 1957; Marie Ney (Menzies), actress, 1981; Erskine Caldwell, novelist, 1987. On this day the French were victorious at the Battle of Ravenna, Italy, but their leader, Gaston de Foix, was killed, 1512; Sir Thomas Fairfax was victorious at the Battle of Marston during the English Civil War, 1644; William III and Mary II were crowned joint monarchs, 1689; the Treaty of Utrecht was signed between France and England, ceding Gibraltar and Newfoundland to England, 1713; the Treaty of Fontenoy was signed, 1741; Napoleon abdicated and was banished to the Isle of Elba, 1814; Louis XVIII acceded to the throne of France, 1814; Uganda was declared a British Protectorate, 1894; Gustav Hamel, aviator, flew from Dover to Dunkirk and back nonstop, 1913; George Bernard Shaw's play *Pigmalion* opened in London, 1914; the International Labour Organisation was founded, 1919; the Stress Conference between Britain, France and Italy began, 1935; the musical show *New Faces* was first produced, London, 1940; a major "blitz" air raid was made over Coventry by German aircraft, 1941; the spacecraft *Apollo 13* blasted off from Cape Kennedy, 1970; a skeleton discovered in Berlin was stated to be definitely that of Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy, 1974; the first London performance of the musical *Blood Brothers* was staged, 1983. Today is the Feast Day of St Barsanuphius, St Germanus of Auxiliis, St Godebertus, St Guthlac, St Isaac of Spoleto and St Stanislaus of Cracow.

Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Lost and Found (I): Tidian, Noli me Tangere", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Eileen Graham, "A Carpet of Spring and Paradise", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Mark Gisbourne, "Beauty must be convulsive or not at all: Surrealism in the 1930s", 1pm. National Portrait Gallery: Justin Nolan, "Sweet England's Pride is Gone": the life and death of the Earl of Essex 1560-1601", 1.10pm.

Dinners

Chester Business Club: Mr John Cole, former Political Editor of the BBC, was the guest of honour and principal speaker at a held yesterday evening at Rowton Hall Hotel, Chester. Mr Philip McCormick, Club Chairman, presided. Mr Tom Hunt, Vice-President, and Mr Bob Clough-Parker, Club Secretary, also spoke.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess of Wales attends a piano recital in aid of the Voices Foundation, at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1. The Princess Royal, Patron, the Northern Lighthouse Board, visits Sanda Light-house, Sunda, and Omeur Lighthouse, Campbelltown, and visits Allan Craig Light-house, Campbeltown, Kintyre. The Duke of Gloucester opens the Buckingham Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre, Buckingham. Princess Alexandra visits the Floyd Unit, Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale. Greater Manchester: opens the Federation Housing Association, opens the Federation Croft retirement housing scheme at Heywood, Rochdale. Greater Manchester: and Visit Vice-Honour, the Cancer Help, Advice and Information Day Centre, Ribblesdale, Preston, Lancashire.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion Welsh Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

Wills

Maud Elington, of Kettering, Northamptonshire, left estate valued at £3,554,756 net. Mr Gordon Whithurst Holmes of Windlesham, Surrey, left estate valued at £3,565,445 net.

April 11 1996

Under starter's orders

Today Mr Major's majority is almost certain to be cut to one.

John Rentoul examines how he will survive

After today, the Government's majority in the House of Commons will be one. Already Julian Critchley, the out-of-sorts Tory MP for Aldershot, has claimed: "I'm it." But of course Sir Richard Body, the most publicly reluctant member of the parliamentary Conservative party, is also "it". As are, individually, each of the Eurosceptic rebels who still organise as a "Group of Eight" on the Tory benches. As is any potential Tory defector.

Mr Critchley is more significant than Sir Richard and the Eight, because he is on the One Nation – one might almost say New Labour – wing of the Tory party. There are many other Conservatives who it can be imagined would be more comfortable with Tony Blair as prime minister than Michael Portillo. And after today, a Tory defector can have the added glory of a paragraph in history to the effect that they wiped out John Major's majority. For Mr Major's majority will be wafer thin following his party's expected defeat in today's Staffordshire South East by-election.

Of course, James Callaghan defied parliamentary arithmetic and electoral gravity for three years after he lost his majority. (Who now remembers the role played in this by the defections of 1976: John Stonehouse to the "English National Party" before his expulsion from the Commons, John Sillars and John Robertson to the Scottish Labour Party?)

But most of the time, Mr Callaghan had the support of the Liberals in a formal pact. This did not stop his government suffering embarrassing defeats – even being forced to cut income tax in 1978 – but ensured he could not be brought down. He survived fewer than six months after the Lib-Lab pact ended in the autumn of 1978.

As Mr Major takes his penultimate step to minority government, the record of the past and the predictions of the future do not suggest that he can remain in power until his preferred date for the next election, 1 May 1997, still just over 12 months away. Even if there are no defectors longing for historical paragraph status, the actuaries tell us that one Tory MP can be expected to die every three months. This means the majority would disappear by July and be

turned into a minority by October. It would take two deaths because by-elections are nowadays postponed for as long as possible: it is the iron law of this parliament that the Government cannot win by-elections.

Almost the only thing that matters in Staffordshire South-East today is the size of the swing to Labour. It is likely to be less than the postwar record 29-point swing posted by Ian Pearson in Dudley West – in many ways a similar Birmingham overspill constituency – in December 1994. If the swing is greater, then the Conservatives are in very serious trouble indeed. It would suggest that the scare over BSE in beef had destroyed the Government's patient efforts to rebuild its trust on the back of one of the more virtuous recoveries in recent economic history.

But the real question is likely to be how far the movement to Labour falls short of this Blair honeymoon benchmark. If Labour wins the seat with a majority of only a few thousand votes, it could suggest that the traditional link between the performance of the economy and the popularity of the government was finally being restored.

A fuller test of public opinion will be offered in the local elections on 2 May – which give about half the population (and not including London, Scotland and Wales) the chance to deliver the Tories' annual drubbing. The issue for the past three years has been not whether the Tories will lose hundreds of seats, but did they do better or worse than last year?

Whatever the outcome today and in three weeks' time, it is unlikely to persuade the Government to bring forward its plans for the next election. As in 1991, Mr Major is convinced that the longer he plays the election, the better his chances are. The fact that he faces a fundamentally more difficult task than five years ago does not deter him from trying to make the best of his hand.

His government is not yet under immediate threat. Mr Critchley may not like the idea of the Tories promising a referendum on the single Euro-

pean currency, but he is unlikely to be offered the chance of a Commons vote on the matter. Next week, Labour intends to stage a debate on the sale of Railtrack. But, despite yesterday's surprise resignation of the franchise director for the privatised railways, Roger Salmon, there are no signs that the sale worries Tory MPs enough to bring down their government.

The question that dominates Westminster is: When Major loses his majority, what then? As in the 1970s, Northern Ireland suddenly moves to the heart of the politics of the UK. Mr Blair has pursued a policy of bipartisanship from the moment of the IRA ceasefire in August 1994, and has continued it since the ending of the ceasefire earlier this year. He has said he would not try to bring the Government down over Northern Ireland, and this has not changed after the tempered criticisms of the Government made by Mo Mowlam, Labour's Northern Ireland spokeswoman, on Tuesday.

If there is trouble for the Government over Northern Ireland, Labour will not be making it. But the Ulster Unionists might. It was Jonathan Cairnes, recently special adviser to Northern Ireland Secretary Patrick Mayhew, who suggested in a leaked document that the Unionists might see no reason to sustain the Government this autumn. Their voters are just as disillusioned with this government's record on the economy and public services as voters in the rest of the country. And if they are satisfied that Mr Blair is at least no more hostile to their interests than Mr Major, why wait?

Relations between the Government and David Trimble's Ulster

Next week: Probably a House of Commons debate on Railtrack sell-off, which could spark a backbench rebellion.

May 22: Local elections in England. More than 10 million electors can vote in the contests, seen as an important indicator of the public mood with little more than a year at most left of Parliament's term.

May 30: Elections to the Forum in Northern Ireland. Debate on the Elections Bill will be fierce and may cause backbench revolt.

June 22-23: European Union summit of heads of government in Florence, Italy, might provoke more rebellion from backbenchers.

September 22-26: Liberal Democrat party conference, Brighton.

September 25-28: Scottish National Party annual conference, Inverness.

September 30-October 4: Labour Party conference, Blackpool.

their votes. Since then John Taylor, UUP deputy leader, has been making recklessly aggressive noises about how little his party cares whether Mr Major survives or not.

Just the kind of friends Mr Major needs as he clings to the edge of his parliamentary precipice.

October 10: Possible general election date – party conferences would have to be scrapped. The economy may have picked up with strong consumer spending.

October 8-11: Conservative Party conference, Bournemouth, a possible launch pad for a general election campaign.

December 12: Possible general election date – following an early tax-cutting budget.

April 4, 1997: Possible general election date – timed to coincide with the Budget tax-cutting effects.

May 1, 1997: The latest practicable general election date according to former party strategists Andrew Lansley (Cons) and Paul Wheeler (Lab), and falls on the same day as the county council elections.

Early November: Queen's Speech.

November 10-12: CBI conference, Harrogate.

November 14: Possible general election date – campaign would be launched at the party conference.

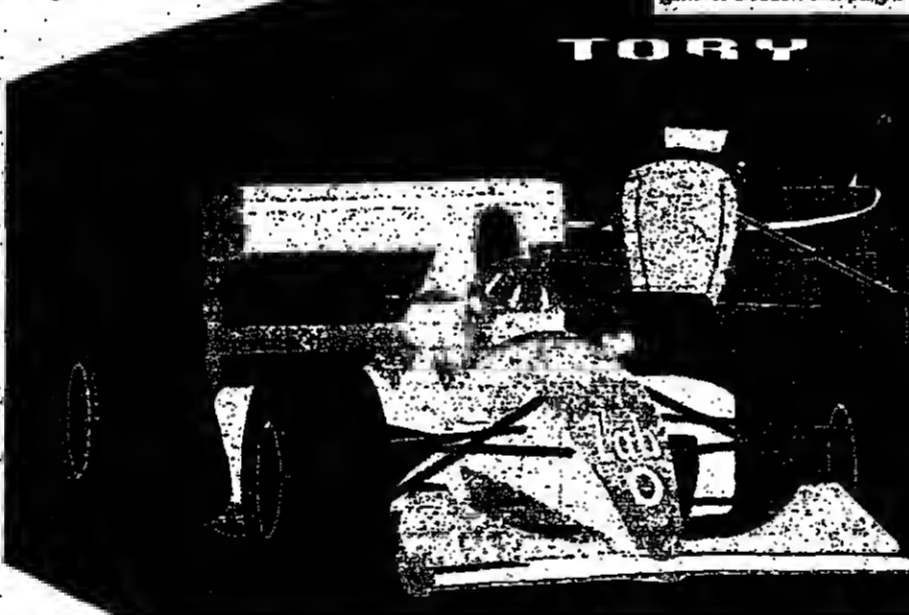
November 26: Budget Day (provisional).

On the grid, ready to go

Candidates: Conservative: Only 293 of 641 non-Northern Ireland seats have candidates. Labour: All but 16 candidates have been chosen. Liberal Democrat: Just over 300 candidates are in place.

Ad Agencies: Conservative: The key agency is M&C Saatchi, led by Maurice Saatchi, veteran of the past four Tory campaigns. Labour: BNP-DBB Needham, led by Chris Powell, brother of Tony Blair's chief of staff, Jonathan Powell. Liberal Democrat: Knight Leach Delaney, the Delaney being Paul, whose brother Barry once made party political broadcasts for Labour.

Campaign Teams: Conservative: Chairman, Dr Brian Mahoney, and Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, are the main acts; Former Express journalist Charles Lewington presents. Labour: Centrally, Peter Mandelson, Tony Blair's closest adviser, who ran Labour's 1987 campaign. But formally, Gordon Brown, John Prescott and Robin Cook lead the campaign, presented by Alastair Campbell. Liberal Democrat: Campaign chairman, Lord Richard Holme, gave up fighting Cheltenham just before the Lib Dems won it. Preparing the campaign is Alan Leaman, who says this time there will be "more of a team feel".



DIARY

Work at Harrods, if you're French

I am a little surprised as I peruse the French newspaper *Le Figaro* to see a large advertisement placed by Harrods, advertising for management staff in various departments such as marketing, human resources, and other key strategic posts at the Knightsbridge store. Applicants, whose relocation costs will be paid by the store, must already have proved themselves by having worked in

"un environnement dynamique". Do the ranks of the British unemployed and the British "keen to change jobs" not include sufficient management whizz-kids with the requisite "dynamisme, réactivité et motivation", as the advert puts it? It also says that "notre président" (of Harrods, not France) Mr Al Fayed (above) and his international co-workers are far-seeing: "but the future is not only a vision; it is a reality." But why does Mr Al Fayed, in France for the most quintessentially British of stores? The Harrods public affairs director, Michael Cole, tells me: "We believe it is in the interests of this country to employ the best possible people, from all over the world. We employ in our workforce people from 54 sovereign states. The man who runs the food hall is a German. Mr Al Fayed has created a British institution of which we can all be proud." *Mais oui.*

Cellulite? Moi?

The Princess of Wales has in her time been accused of being paranoid, of attempting to scupper her husband's chances of ascending to the throne and of having an affair with a well-known British sportsman. To all these accusations she has maintained a dignified

silence. This week she was "accused" of having a cellulite problem. No royal licence on this one. The next morning her indignant rebuttal of the claim was published on the front page of the *Daily Mirror*. A princess's priorities...

Luvvies in Lilliput

The excellent adaptation of *Gulliver's Travels* on Channel 4 over Easter was a celebration of family values, I see. The director, Charles Sturridge, cast his wife, Phoebe Nicholls, as the Empress of Lilliput (they met when he directed *Bridhead Revisited*, in which she played Cordelia). Their eldest child, Thomas, played Gulliver's son Tom, and their toddlers Matilda and Arthur appeared as infant Lilliputians.

"It was an exploitative decision by me

to use Thomas," Mr Sturridge tells *Harpers & Queen* with a delightfully luvvish overstatement. "I knew I had a very difficult thing to achieve with that part, and I knew he could do it." As well as family Sturridge dominating the cast list, there should also have been a credit for Mr Sturridge's tutor at Oxford, Peter Bailey. When he was 18, Sturridge wrote an essay on "The Satire of Gulliver's Travels". Mr Bailey wrote on it: "A competent survey. May be of use to you later."

Save us from Rolf

I demand an organisation dedicated to saving classic rock music from cover versions. Playwrights and their estates can refuse to lease the rights to applicants they don't fancy. Film studios have rights over their productions. But no

such safeguards exist when it comes to covering pop songs. And so, watch out later this month for Rolf Harris's very own version of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody", with wobble board replacing Freddie Mercury's operatic cries of "scaramouch". Any more plans Rolf? "Strawberry Fields Forever" complete with didgeridoo perhaps?

Amphibious amour

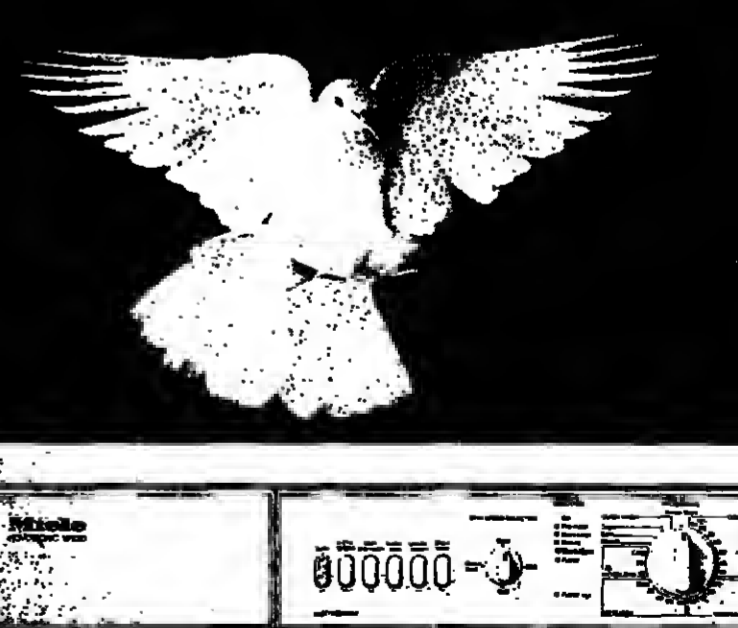
Remember Simoo Smith and his amazing dancing bear? This is Ken Livingstone's amazing dancing toad. The Brent East MP is one of a number of personalities who have created paintings or drawings to be auctioned for the wildlife charity Care For The Wild. The Liberal leader, Paddy Ashdown, has drawn a bisou, to enhance his hardy outdoor image, presumably. But does Mr Livingstone's painting "Dancing Toad – Young at Heart" mean he has transferred his affections from the collection of owls he keeps in his London garden pond? "No," he tells me, "but toads are not as colourful as toads, and toads have more expressive faces." I sense there's a sonnet as well as a painting lurking in the Livingstone breast.

Winning ways

Great seduction techniques of our time: Michael Winner, film director, restaurant critic and charmer, tells the new edition of *Take A Break* magazine: "I tend to say 'Come on, let's get a move on!' And they say, 'I don't know you well enough.' And I say: 'Well, I'm at my best now, but in a couple of weeks you'll hate me because I'll be going downhill.'" It's a wonder any girl can resist.

Eagle Eye

CARE-FREE



FREE FIVE YEAR PARTS & LABOUR COVER†
WORTH UP TO **£120**

This promotion runs from 1st April – 31st May 1996 on all new purchases of Miele laundry products, dishwashers, refrigeration and built-in cooking appliances

Contact 01235 554488 for full details and Miele Stockists.

†Includes one year's manufacturer's guarantee and four years' extended warranty. This offer does not affect your statutory rights. *Combined cost of Miele Double Cover and Double Cover Plus extended warranty schemes for washer dryer. This promotion does not include Miele vacuum cleaners.

Miele

THE INDEPENDENT

FOUNDED 1886

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000/0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-293 2435/0171-345 2435

EDITOR: Charles Wilson

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Charles Leadbeater MANAGING EDITOR: Colin Hughes
SECTION TWO EDITOR: Simon Kneier EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR: Michael Williams
NIGHT EDITOR: Richard Hellewell

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Liam Healy (Chairman) Lord Borrie Ben Bradlee Juan Luis Cebrian Brendan Hopkins
David Montgomery Javier Diaz de Polanco Cornel Riklin Andreas Whitman Smith
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Jeremy Reed

Questions the lottery must face

Listen to Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, and you would think that everything in the lush garden which has grown up around the National Lottery is wonderful. It's not. She fudged the serious allegations made last year by the entrepreneur Richard Branson against the parent company of the lottery operator, Camelot. But the questions about what has become so familiar a part of daily life for so many will not go away. The way scratchcards are working poses fundamental questions about the lottery: she is obliged to the millions who pour money into the competition to answer them.

The principle of a lottery, most of the proceeds of which flow into "good causes", is a good one. Without it, the feel-good factor deficit would be even bigger. The enthusiasm with which people young and old, high and mighty, join in the weekly draw is spontaneous and genuine.

But doubts surround the way the lottery is practised. This is public money, literally if not officially. The way it is collected and distributed demands scrutiny. Yet the official scrutineer, Oflot, under the leadership of the ineffective Peter Davis, is not trusted as a regulator should be. The minister responsible – the ever-smiling Mrs Bottomley – must accept that, after 18 months, there are aspects of the operation of the National Lottery she does not know enough about, such as the sale of scratchcards to young people. It is time she set up a review, for even if she does not think she needs information and assessment, we, the punters, do.

The agenda for such a review begins with scratchcards. By law, Oflot must not licence any game that encourages "excessive gambling". That is impracticable, but anecdote suggests it should encourage patterns of play and spending which warp the original conception of the National Lottery. Why is anecdote all we have to go on? Because Oflot has not bothered

to find out who bets on scratchcards: it has, till recently, done virtually no monitoring or research. Reports suggest children are avid buyers of the cards. The police are worried. Yet no action has been taken, perhaps because the Home Office, responsible for gambling and charities, does not even seem to be talking to the Department of National Heritage.

After that comes the distribution of lottery funds. After a rocky start, the lottery grants boards are up and running well. But are the respective shares of sports, arts, heritage and charities right? More money should go to help the poorer, for that would mitigate the lottery's regressiveness. That is not to say the geographical distribution of funds highlighted in this week's report from the Directory of Social Change is skewed. Some of its figures for per capita receipt of lottery money are meaningless since they are not weighted for the fact big arts companies are concentrated in London. They do not allow either for the fact the lottery boards can only pay out if applications are made. Some parts of the country and some deserving groups have been backward in coming forward. (The review ought to study the cost of making grant applications and whether procedures can be simplified.)

The other main object for the review should be the lottery's commercial basis. Camelot plc is a monopolist. Ofot's task of assessing its costs and profits is made all the more difficult because it lacks directly comparable data. Is that situation immutable? All the other regulators, even the director-general of Water Services, are making efforts to bring competition to bear, however balingly, on monopoly suppliers. Camelot plc may have a contract with several years to run, but that must not make it immune from question and challenge. The lottery is successful and strong enough to withstand some more probing.

London needs a mayor

The city state is being reborn across Europe. The city is one beneficiary of the weakening power of the nation state, as power passes upwards to supra-national institutions like the European Union and down to local and regional bodies. Cities are the hubs of the modern global economy, where transport and culture, business and public services come together to create an environment attractive to international investment, whether from companies or tourists.

Any nation that lacks a strategy to develop its cities to the full is at a disadvantage. That is just where Britain is, and no more so than London. It is not difficult to feel a sense of frustration, despair even, visiting a European city such as Barcelona, to witness the way that culture and sport, entertainment and history, regional identity and politics, the private and the public sectors mesh together to create a place that has a sense of purpose.

London is a city that has stalled. There is no sense of London-wide initiative, no sense of spirit and little sense of pride. There is development – Southwark council, for instance, has done a good job helping to promote a cultural area on the south bank of the Thames. There are interesting proposals: the architect Sir Richard Rogers has devised a splendid plan to create a pedestrian area sweeping down from Trafalgar Square to the

Thames. But all too often these are lone voices.

What London lacks is a focus and a voice for what are genuinely its interests. The Labour Party yesterday came up with some sensible, cautious proposals to create a Greater London Authority, a directly elected authority the members of which would take the place of Whitehall paladins and women on the boards and quangoes that now largely run London-wide services. Much power would be left in the hands of the boroughs.

As a plan to avoid the excesses of old Labour loony leftism, this is all well and good. But it does not go far enough. In particular, Labour should come out and clearly back the idea of creating a directly elected mayor for London and other cities. This is not a panacea: it would create its own problems. But what London lacks more than anything is a voice and a focus for its sense of identity and purpose.

The election of a mayor, who would then be responsible for representing London and fighting for its interests in the wider world, would be an excellent way to provide both voice and focus. The creation of directly elected mayors for all large cities would reinvigorate local democracy and enliven drab urban politics with leaders of potential clout and perhaps some personality. So, as usual, Mr Blair, don't smother your instincts in caution; shock us, be bold.

How to do a three-point turn in court

Today I bring you more of the fascinating High Court case in which Mr Sidney Delba stands accused of more than 6,000 parking offences, which is believed to be a world record (not counting offences committed by diplomats and embassy chauffeurs).

Counsel: So, Mr Delba, if I may sum up the case so far, you stand accused of leaving your car in a parking space in or near Kensington High Street for a period of over two years?

Defendant: I think that sums it up fairly well.

Counsel: In a space marked "DISABLED ONLY"?

Defendant: That is so.

Counsel: With a ghastly green plastic baby chair on the back seat?

Defendant: Correct.

Counsel: And a Frisbee and a pair of trainers?

Defendant: I believe so...

Judge: May I inquire whether learned counsel has any purpose in detailing the contents of this car? Are we going to be taken through an itemised tour of the glove compartment?

Counsel: No, my lord. I am simply lulling the defendant into a feeling of false security with a series of easy questions so that when I finally bowl him the inswinger, he doesn't see it coming.



MILES KINGSTON

I also wish to paint a picture of the defendant as an able-bodied man who has children and goes jogging, and is the last person who should deprive disabled people of their parking spaces, and thus turn the court against this evil monster.

Judge: Fair enough. I shall enjoy that. Carry on.

Counsel: So, Mr Delba, you go jogging? You enjoy the open air life? You have Frisbees at the ready wherever you go?

Defendant: Yes, indeed. I also find it deters car thieves to see such valueless objects lying around in a car.

Counsel: You are not, though, what one might call disabled?

Defendant: Not in a Panglossian sense.

Judge: What sense is that?

Defendant: Pangloss is the non-oponymous hero of Voltaire's work, *Candide*, my lord. He was a philoso-

pher who maintained that all was for the best in the best of all possible worlds.

Judge: That is clearly nonsense. If all was for the best, we would not have Michael Howard as Home Secretary.

Defendant: Of course it is nonsense, my lord. But Pangloss would have said that all disablement is for the best.

Judge: Would he have said that Michael Howard is all for the best?

Defendant: Pangloss was only a fictional character, my lord. But I feel sure that his creator, Voltaire, would have taken a dim view of Mr Michael Howard.

Judge: How can you be so sure?

Defendant: During his life, my lord, Voltaire was forced to flee from France, after publishing some works critical of the establishment, and take refuge in England, where he found a safe asylum. I fear he might have felt that this would have been harder with Michael Howard in charge of the Home Office.

Judge: Hmm. We seem to have strayed from ... What is the case about?

Counsel: Leaving a car for two years in a "Disabled Only" space, my lord. May I ask you, Mr Delba, what form your disablement takes?

Defendant: I am dyslexic.

Counsel: In what sense?

Defendant: In the usual sense. I get letters in the wrong order.

Judge: You mean, you get the final demand first and the bill later?

Counsel: Very droll, my lord.

Defendant: Well, I don't think that is at all funny! How can a judge make caustic comments about the defendant which, coming from a defendant about a judge, would have him liable to contempt of court?

Judge: Are you accusing me a committing contempt of court?

Defendant: Yes.

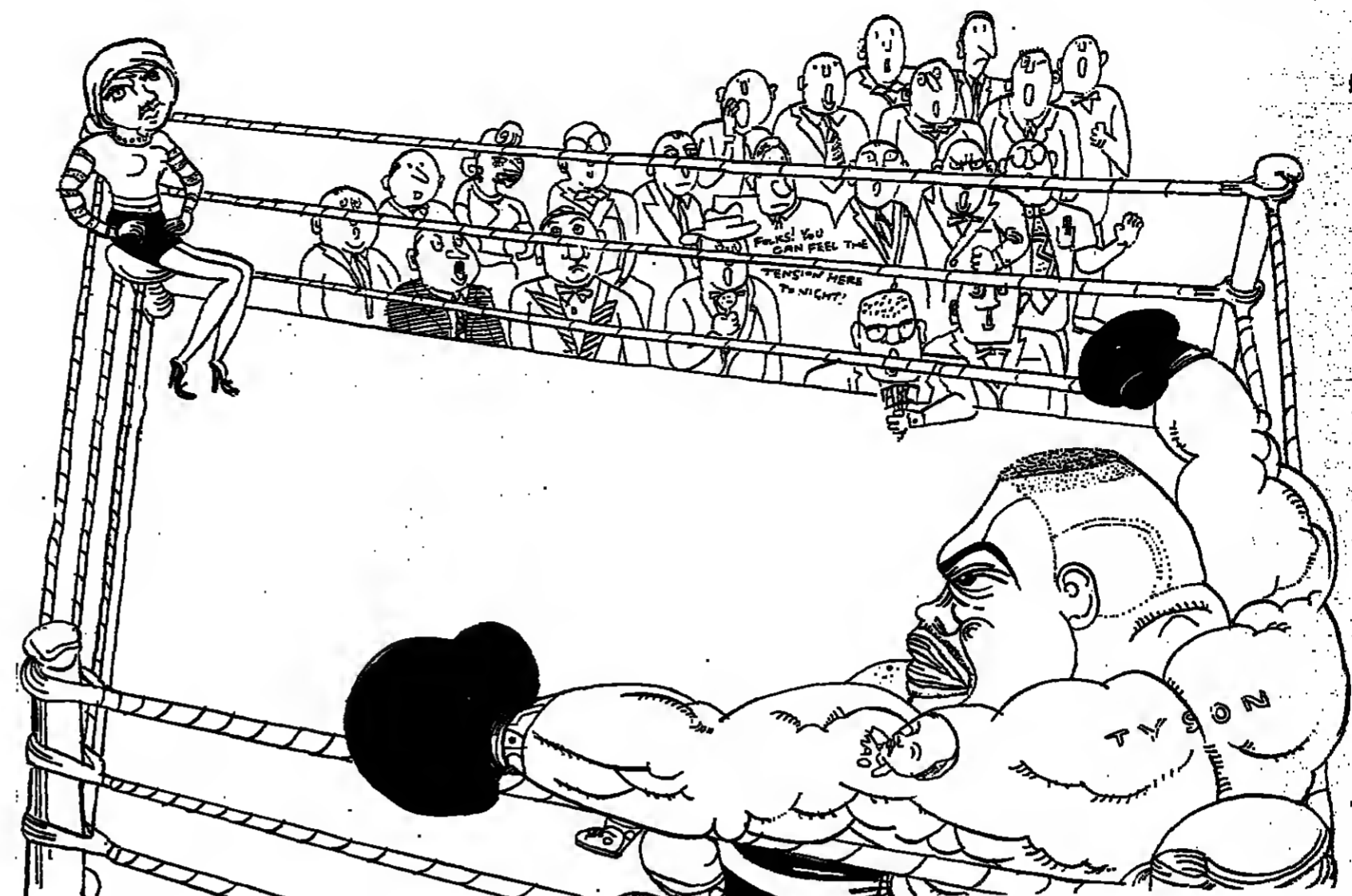
Judge: Hmm. That's a new one on me. I don't think a judge can actually commit contempt of his own court.

It's like the Queen being accused of *lese-majesty*. Or God being accused of blasphemy. I'll have to think about this one.

Defendant: Look, could we PLEASE get on with this case? My car is parked in an "Ambulance Only" space outside and I can't leave it there all day.

Judge: Court is adjourned. Let us hear in 20 minutes, after Mr Delba has moved his car, how dyslexia justifies parking in the wrong place. I shall look forward to that.

Tomorrow – the final thrilling instalment of this trend-setting court case.



It's a bit early for a comeback, isn't it?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Green farming systems can revive the countryside

Sir: One further point to your valuable debate on whether UK Farming plc can "go green". Rural people and jobs are vital to maintain viable rural communities, services and culture. The reasons for the decline seen in many rural areas are complex but one of the most pressing implications is the loss of rural employment. The UK farm workforce has shrunk from 21 per cent in 1981 to an average of 2.1 per cent in 1995, the second lowest figure in the OECD membership. It is set to drop even further.

The BSE saga has huge implications for rural workers. The intensive farm systems behind BSE have let down not only consumers and the environment but also rural communities. In future they should not be relied upon to provide a stable rural employment base.

It is possible to alter the dynamics such that new and improved farm and rural job scenarios are created. Green farming systems can create job opportunities. Low-input farms such as organic and mixed arable, by nature, more labour intensive and are associated with on-farm processing, local marketing and other

activities (one study found 19 per cent greater employment on German organic farms). Landscape and woodland management requires local labour and enhances local incomes. Such systems are often associated with better environmental protection. Sustainable agriculture will be a reality when a working, healthy environment is created. The obstacles to this are many but the UK could and must take the lead.

VICKI HIRD
Food and Environment
London SW1

Sir: Congratulations on your "Comment" page (9 April). All five articles are refreshingly to the point. How wonderful if we could have a government to support organic farming by changing the structure of agricultural subsidies. We would all benefit so much if gradually the evil side-effects of chemicals and pesticides were to be removed. Doubtless in time the national health bill would fall noticeably too.

How shaming that we are almost at the bottom of the list in

Europe for our percentage of organic farming. Before it is too late let us hope we can start moving towards the top.

H J MACKERRAS
London NW8

Sir: Your feature on the potential for "British farming to go green" was excellent (9 April).

The crunch comes when every consumer faces up to the impact that their purchasing decisions have on how the produce is produced. They can also make sure it causes minimal pollution, both through transport and packaging, to name but two issues.

Some consumers may only consider the extra cost of an organic item versus its "conventional" rival. Others, and I suggest that they are the wise ones, see through the "cheapness" of the latter and appreciate the costs it imposes on all of society in cleaning up water, soil and air, not to mention human health.

Like many others, I prefer the imperfect shape or skin texture of food, knowing that the alternative probably carries a chemical residue, which although minute

in actual terms, could be sufficient to trigger a reaction with another residual chemical and cause the health breakdowns that now afflict so many in our society. Eating organic food is a wise investment.

OLIVER DOWDING
Shepton Montague,
Somerset

Sir: Where on earth does Yvette Cooper do her "organic" shopping? In my experience (with the exception of the odd batch of old, unsold over-priced produce) organic vegetables are generally attractive, radiant, regular and of good colour with superior taste.

To state that "organic vegetables are ugly, smaller, grub-filled and not beautiful" is untrue and a load of old compost.

NIGEL JONES
London W1

Sir: My small farm of 27 hectares was more or less organic when my father came here nearly 50 years ago. We would never have survived had it stayed that way.

PHILIP FRY
Chipperton, Wiltshire

Devaluation is a fool's paradise

Sir: In an otherwise enjoyable article ("Singled out: the case for going in", 3 April), you fail to provide an adequate rebuttal of the Eurosceptic argument that inside a single currency the British government would "hand over control of monetary policy to Europe" (the case for Staying Out). In so doing, you perfectly illustrate that the pro-European majority in Britain has been forced onto the defensive over the issue of sovereignty.

It is vital that the debate over EMU is conducted in a way relating to the world as it is, not as some would like to remember it. With an increasingly globalised economy, the abandonment of the assumption that governments can "manage" their economies ought to be accompanied by the discrediting of the idea that national sovereignty over economic policy is genuinely possible.

In reality, far from being an abrogation of sovereignty, British participation in EMU can only result in creating a wider Euro-

pean sovereignty over the European economy. The current situation whereby British interest rates are set by the actions of the Bundesbank would be replaced by a situation where Britain had equal status in the European central bank, giving us the opportunity to participate in the setting of our interest rates.

As for retaining the option of devaluation, you are right to imply that this is a fool's paradise. Devaluation is simply a facade behind which people can shy away from carrying out required economic reforms, as well as providing scant incentive for trade unions to exercise restraint in wage bargaining. It must surely be obvious by now that the most successful economies are those that do not devalue.

If those who oppose British participation in EMU have concluded that Britain's future lies in continued devaluation, they should surely rethink their position.

SPENCER LIVERMORE
London N4

Entitlements for railway staff

Sir: I find it surprising that Railtrack's new arrangements for travel by rail while on duty should lead to the conclusion that railway staff will lose their existing entitlements to concessionary travel for leisure and travel-to-work purposes.

The opposite is the case. The Government promised during the passage of the railway privatisation legislation that concessionary staff travel, an entitlement provided through contracts of employment, would be safeguarded. That commitment has been met. Arrangements are in place for those staff employed prior to 1 April 1996, together with dependants and retired staff, to continue to use their entitlements.

In general, however, railway staff will no longer be able to use their concessionary travel documentation for duty travel. In future, employers will need to purchase tickets or some other form of authority for travel on duty.

JOHN WATTS
Minister for Railways
and Roads
Department of Transport
London, SW1

Legacy of care for the old

Sir: Polly Rynne (8 April) complains that John Major "promises new schemes to allow the old to keep their property instead of spending it on care if they have to go into nursing homes". She believes that personal wealth should be used to pay for care rather than burden taxes, and I am inclined to agree.

Further, this sits ill with John Major's other expressed wish – to get rid of inheritance tax. This would make inheritance a lottery. Those who died without needing to pass on all their wealth, but those who spent a long time in care would leave nothing beyond £10,000.

Would it not be better to have an effective inheritance tax and use it to pay (or part pay) for care of those who need it? A society in which inheritance becomes more and more significant risks increasing the already highly damaging wealth differences in the country.

G W ALDERTON
Helsby
Cheshire

Pre-election tax planning

Sir: Recent research conducted by KPMG (*Succession Planning Survey*, April 1996) suggests that the majority of business owners, while aware of the benefits of tax planning, have done little to maximise the potential gain from existing opportunities.

That, and not a desire to speculate on what a future Labour government's tax policies might be, is the rationale behind our recent series of pre-election tax planning seminars. Far from wishing to frighten our clients into taking action (leading article, 9 April) KPMG believes its duty lies in advising its clients and others of the tax implications of a number of possible post-election scenarios, not just those of a Labour administration.

As professional tax advisers, that is our clear and obvious responsibility and one which we, as a strictly apolitical firm, have routinely undertaken in the run-up to previous general elections.

IAN BARLOW
Head of Tax, KPMG
London EC4

Sir: The accountancy profession has left it much too late to offer advice about avoiding excessive tax burdens ("Wealthy learn how to beat Labour tax threat", 9 April). The present government already collects a higher proportion of national income in taxation than was ever the case under the previous Labour administration.

NIGEL WILKINS
London SW7

Gay teachers' school outing

Sir: On Sunday, for the first time in eight years, the National Union of Teachers held a debate on lesbian and gay equality. Despite minor differences on the most appropriate union structures to oversee the project, speakers (including Executive members) were unanimous in their support for an annual gay teachers' conference, local support networks and backing teachers who choose to come out at school.

The following morning, the right-wing tabloids were full of predictable, homophobic outrage. I had expected that. What I had not expected was the total silence of supposedly "gay-friendly" papers like your own. If you do share our commitment to building a more tolerant community, why not find space to welcome initiatives such as this one. If only more young children are able to go through school aware that many of the adults they meet there and whom they know and respect are lesbian or gay, we may yet see an end to the prejudice that has blighted the lives of so many people for so many years.

GEORGE ELLINGHAM
Schools Out
London WC1

Good boys

Sir: The Gallagher boys are innocent because their mother says so ("Mum puts dent in rock band's 'wild man' image", 6 April). Pardon me for being sceptical. Most amusing are the calls of various Tory MPs, demanding the musicians are brought to justice. Don't these MPs realise that they should be congratulating the Conservative Party that at least two people in this country have converted from lives of petty crime to successful careers?

DR KEVIN W. SOUTHERN
Leeds

A public finance scandal in the making

The private partnership approach is a shabby way for politicians to claim the credit but avoid the reckoning

Here is a journalistic conspiracy-theorist's guide to what sort of things go badly wrong in government. Look first for wheezes that allow big spending where there wasn't big spending before – one thinks of the gush of shiny new headquarters, car fleets and refurbishment that followed the establishment of hospital trusts and government agencies.

Look next for a bland cross-party consensus about some fashionable idea – a sure sign of looming disaster. The vogue for killing off grammar schools and building tower blocks are obvious examples. And remember, third, that most serious problems seem, at first sight, to be too boring and complicated for normal people to concentrate on – military helicopter procurement, the details of the Child Support Agency, public interest immunity certificates.

Now, it may just be me, but it is not mildly alarming that the Private Finance Initiative sets off each of these three alarm bells? It allows government ministers to announce spending that they couldn't otherwise have sanctioned – £5bn of bridges, hospitals and computer systems so far. It is a wheeze that is keenly supported by everyone from Tory right-wingers to, in a slightly different form, Labour's John Prescott.

And it is, at first sight, complex and dull (and second sight, and third).

But it is important. We must pour ourselves another coffee and concentrate. The basic idea is simple. In the past, governments paid private companies to build things, such as schools or roads. The bill was footed by the taxpayer.

Under the PFI the private sector doesn't just carry out a contract given

to it by a government department: it raises the money, manages and designs the project, and then helps to run it. The state, which because of tight public borrowing targets couldn't have raised the money itself, gets the project in essence, a rent for using the facilities.

The private sector digs deeper into the ownership and management of things that were once wholly under the control of the state. It is a sort of "beyond privatisation" idea, something that the Tory right likes for ideological reasons. But it allows government to take the political credit for buildings and investments that, without private involvement, wouldn't have happened. The Tory left and the Labour Party like it for that reason.

And, party instincts aside, the PFI has some genuine merits. When the state simply paid the bills, we saw appalling examples of cost overruns, over-lavish outfitting and sheer managerial incompetence. The new British Library is a good example, and most areas of Britain have hospitals that took far too long to build and cost hideously more than expected. Under the PFI, the idea is that the private contractor shoulders more of the risk. If a bridge needs to be resurfaced after five years, the private partner pays.

But there are two or three obvious catches. Though risks can be neatly apportioned on paper (a truly complex business), in the end, a government cannot walk away from serious cock-ups in services bought on behalf of the public. If a bridge collapses or a hospital has to be closed, there are public duties on ministers and public costs that no contract will exonerate.

Cock-ups aside, the PFI may anyway



ANDREW MARR

We are being offered public investment on hire purchase terms

cost the taxpayer more than ordinary public spending. The state can borrow more cheaply than private companies through the gilt market, so the financing costs of these projects would be lower. True, this big benefit may be overwhelmed by the added efficiency of private management, and the transfer of risks to the private sector.

But no one knows. A recent paper from the merchant bank BZW said: "This may or may not be true, but it will be some time before the taxpayer really knows whether they have had a good deal or not..." Furthermore, as BZW also pointed out, the PFI is essentially a postponement of public spending. Taxpayers still shell out by paying a rent; the money just gets spent later than it would have done.

Who is supposed to make the difficult balancing calculation between the lower costs of ordinary public spending and the possible efficiency gains from private sector management of a project? Answer: the permanent sec-

retaries running each department, under pressure from ministers who want to be able to announce new projects.

There seems to be risk for everyone except the here-and-now politician, who gets the political credit now, secure in the knowledge that any final reckoning will be postponed until after he or she has retired. No wonder politicians, irrespective of party allegiance, are so keen.

Under a government that has made a virtue of trying to pay back the national debt to lift the burden from future generations of taxpayers, this seems a short-term, even shabby, approach to spending. And since the PFI is bound to speed up the rate at which the state borrows, it will also create a new lobby for public spending. Whatever this is, it isn't public spending without tears.

Nor are the potential problems limited to the expense and new upward pressures for government spending. There are also serious policy questions. One recent PFI proposal to hand the power over court committee work – who stands trial where and when – to a private computer company was only stopped after angry intervention by judges and Opposition politicians.

Another proposal, for the use of private capital to fund air traffic control was attacked last week by the chief executive of National Air Traffic Services, because a private sector operator would buy different equipment which could affect the efficiency of the system. If a private sector company is managing a hospital, even the non-clinical bit, doesn't that have implications for bed use? And so on. The PFI seems to me to try to disentangle management

and money, on the one hand, from effective political power on the other, and this is not possible.

Strangely, it may seem, those Treasury officials who held a briefing last week about the PFI will be delighted by this scepticism. Their pleasure comes from the fact that up to now the much-vaunted initiative, which dates back to November 1992, has been generally regarded as a Majorite damp squib, another bureaucratic-sounding hiss of deflating air.

Actually, though, the PFI is beginning to take off. Projects from the Channel tunnel rail link to the Skye bridge, from a new £250m hospital in Edinburgh to the other examples given above are beginning to tumble out of Whitehall. Initial caution from the Treasury and traditionalist civil servants is crumbling under the political pressure of a government constrained in how much it can borrow yet as keen as any government to make announcements about shiny new buildings.

So this is just the moment to become mildly alarmed. We, taxpayers and users of services, are effectively being offered public investment on hire purchase terms, in a system that will pass real powers from the state bureaucracy to private companies and in which lines of accountability are further blurred.

The complexity of the issues and the forbidding thicket of initials are enough to keep most people away from this subject. But a good conspiracy theorist would expect that the public spending scandals of 2010 are being hatched now, deep in the bowels of the PFI. And, however unfashionable it may be to say so, recent experience of government shows that the conspiracy theorists are often quite right.

Peace comes before politics

Mo Mowlam explains why Labour will back elections in Ulster

What do Sir Patrick Mayhew and I have in common? On the face of it, not much. And perhaps that is the explanation for how two characters as different as Sir Patrick and I could keep the balance between the parties at Westminster on Northern Ireland.

In Britain and Ireland, north and south, people often ask me what Labour's bipartisan approach means in practice. Do you and Sir Patrick sit down to plan the way forward? Does John Major call for your advice? The short answer to both is: no.

Labour decided to support the Government over Northern Ireland because its approach was based on agreements with the Irish government put into the Downing Street Declaration (1993) and the Joint Framework Document (1995). Our own policy of unity by consent is one of the options in those documents, which provide a firm basis for a consensus on a balanced settlement that can command the support of both communities. Building that consensus is what we would (and will) try to do, just as the British and Irish governments are trying to do.

Our support is based on principle and common sense. We want to put peace above party politics at Westminster. As the process unfolds, I become more and more impressed by people's passionate desire for it to work. Even people with no interest in politics want the peace to hold and a just settlement to be reached. As a consequence, frustrations build up with what people see as the politicians' failure to give momentum to the process and to work to deliver an outcome.

I receive calls, letters, petitions and motions calling for faster progress. I understand and identify with these feelings and answer that the best way right now for Labour to help is to prevent the Government – with its knife-edge majority – being driven into the arms of the right and the pro-Unionist wing of the Tory party.

Westminster political arithmetic has so often affected the politics of the island of Ireland: we must do all we can to stop that happening again. But however hard we try, electoral arithmetic and pressures will be central to the agenda. They are put there as much by the media, and the public, as anyone else who wants to end this elaborate pre-general election positioning and get on with electing a government fit to govern.

Bipartisan support means putting peace above party interest, but it does not and has not meant acquiescence to whatever the Government says or does.

We have had our differences with the Government over the past 18 months. We want – and would have made – more progress on areas such as: protecting the basic rights of both traditions; a proper strategy for training and economic development; and fair employment and fair treatment guarantees for both public and private sectors. We have argued for the transfer of prisoners to Ireland, north and south, to ease family contact, and we have proposed changes to improve community identification with policing in Northern Ireland.

These proposals have come with constructive and critical support. We have not shouted about our differences because that would signal to the parties and people in the discussion: "Don't bother with the Tories."

Westminster arithmetic has so often affected the politics of Ireland

procrastinate and wait for a Labour government." Such a stance would be irresponsible, dishonest and damaging to the peace process.

This is a deeply sensitive period in Northern Ireland. Against the volatile backdrop of the paramilitary and the mechanisms to make talks happen are put in place. Elections in Northern Ireland are part of the process and the Government wants and needs to pass the legislation to make them possible. We will not stand in the way of that legislation.

But the elections are part of a package. We are calling for the details of the other key elements – the role the elected forum would play and the ground rules for the negotiations – to be published alongside the Bill for the elections. This is essential, first, to let the parties see the whole package, to be reassured where necessary and to see what's in it for them and, second, to prevent support for the elections being adversely affected by a lack of knowledge about the rest of the package on offer.

Publishing all parts of the package together would let all the parties know what they are buying into and bring us closer to the objective that we all share – an inclusive and meaningful process of negotiations covering all relationships, which starts on 10 June with all the eligible parties present.

The writer is Labour's shadow Northern Ireland secretary.

The new anti-porn weapon is shame. Will it wobble Smith's off the top shelf?

There is something shocking about magazines. One wall of every newsagent is covered with them – lurid, gleaming, overlapping ranks promising a near-infinity of choice, each one with a cover subtly designed to seduce the woman, the angler, the car freak and, with curves, rubber, leather and lace along the top shelf, the man.

So familiar is this brilliantly coloured spectacle that we hardly notice it other than as a

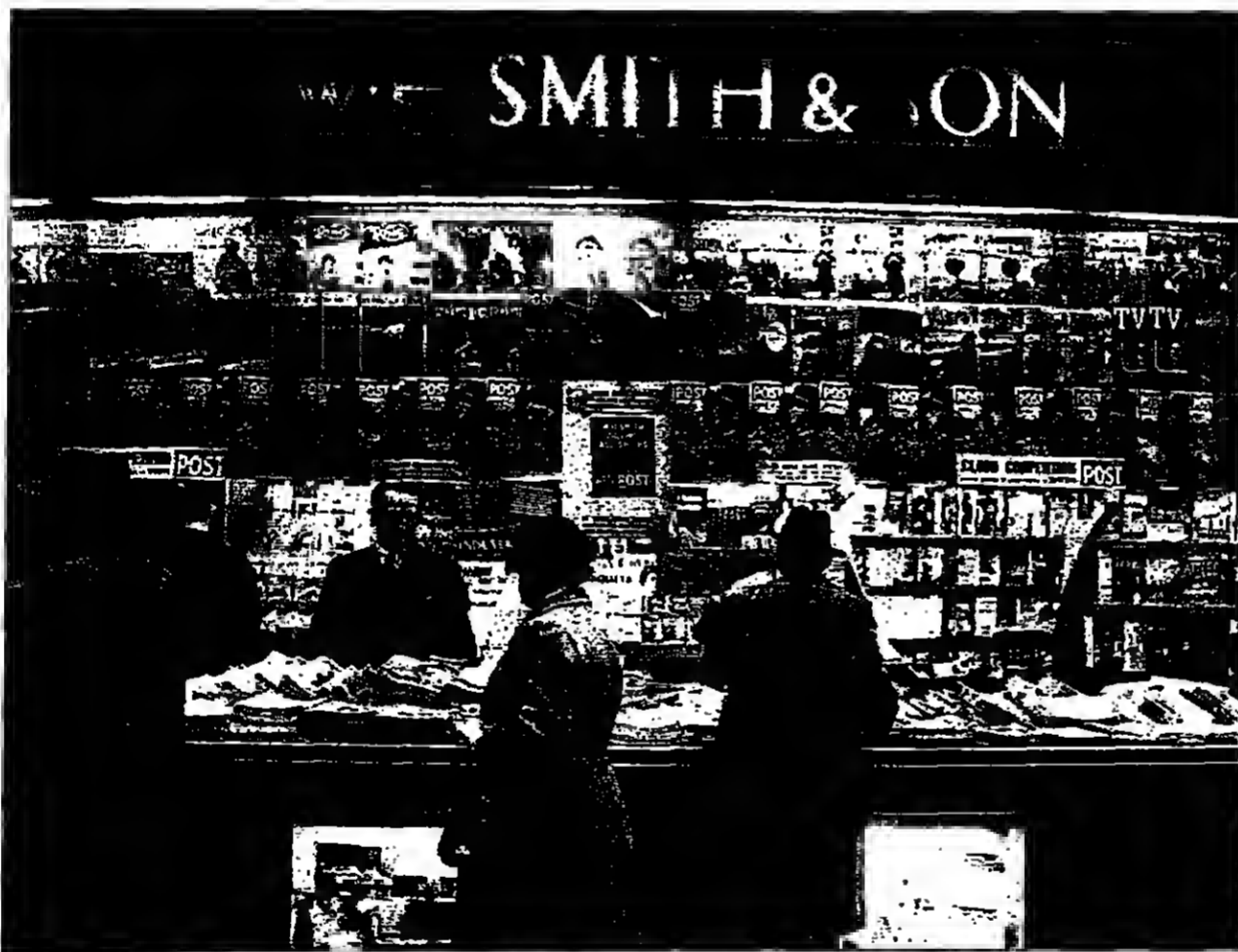


BRYAN APPEYARD

kind of puzzle picture in which we explore the newsagent's mind to discover where he might have put the one mag we want. Yet seen as a whole, it is a cultural event as diverse and compendious as television or advertising.

WH Smith, which as wholesaler supplies about a third of all newspapers and magazines, is clearly in the habit of seeing this coloured wall as a single, homogeneous mass. Under its "box-out" system it provides 20,000 independent newsagents with a more or less undifferentiated mass of magazines. Some 80 of these titles are pornographic, a selection made by the company from the 300 to 400 published. In its own shops Smith, true to its respectable image, sells only four porn titles, but, as anonymous wholesaler, it goes further.

Others see the wall of magazines as possessed of more detailed moral significance. At Smith's last annual meeting the Campaign Against Pornography protested against the box-out system as a way of dumping porn on retailers whether they liked it or not. And now a group called Porn Free Newsagents and Convenience Stores is putting pressure on WH Smith to offer retailers a clearer choice not to sell pornography. Porn Free was set up by Hardy Shaheen, an Egyptian newsagent, who says he wants WH Smith "to start behaving like its family business image".



On the rack? Campaigners want WH Smith to behave according to its traditional 'family image'

Hufton Getty

In response the company has improved its system for allowing retailers to opt out of receiving some titles. In its old form this system failed regularly – embarrassingly it kept sending Shaheen porn mags however often he protested.

But, of course, Smith will still offer its 80 porn titles to anybody who wants them. The Campaign Against Pornography wants to stop the company doing this completely and Shaheen wants to ban the sale of top-shelf titles to under-18s and to insist that they all be sold in sealed plastic covers. Applying moral pressure to companies in this way is an import from America. There the Christian right wing has attempted to call the bluff of corporate responsibility.

Michael Medved, for example, led an attack on Hollywood's obsession with violence. And William Bennett, a former secretary for

education and the author of the hugely successful *The Book of Virtues*, simply pointed out to executives of Time Warner, the biggest media group in the world, the awfulness of much of its violent and sex trash output. Time Warner, he says, was puzzled. The executives could not grasp that they were being asked rather than coerced. The

Pornography more than anything else shows the hypocrisy in liberal society

issue is not normally posed in terms of conscience. Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers*, for example, was held back from video release in this country not because Warner Bros executives suddenly felt bad about it, but because a large number of MPs felt the company was ignoring their

demand for restraint on what is released on video. That is a familiar exercise of power, the kind of moral pressure head office can understand.

The Bennett approach is to ask the executives what kind of people they are. Do they want to be remembered as god-fathers of a violent, pornographic society? The question

is painfully difficult. As family men in suits, they wish to be seen as respectable entertainers; as servants of the shareholders, they feel a commercial imperative to exploit the market for sex and violence. The dilemma is precisely captured by a British advertisement by Shaheen's call for WH Smith to live

up to its family business image.

The conflict is between freedom – either of the market or of the adult individual to consume what he or she likes – and virtue. The problem is that the word "virtue" is ambiguous. It is an awkward issue for, clearly, Smith can be accused of hypocrisy, flaunting respectability when its own name is attached to the sale, but happy to exploit the market when its rule in the deal is concealed by the independent newsagent.

Bennett, Medved, Shaheen and the anti-porn campaigners have spotted this awkwardness and used it to embarrass companies that would rather have the contradiction buried by the anonymous complexities of the market. They have found a new way of making their case by publicising the role of companies as social institutions rather than as blank profit-making machines. The problem for the

companies is that they know that, some of the time, being an efficient profit-making machine requires them at least to appear to be responsible social institutions. Every company of any size has to promote itself as more than profit-driven. Nobody buys anything because they want to improve the seller's earnings per share, they buy things because of the attachment of values, frequently values of solidity, respectability and sometimes social concern.

The campaigners' weapon is, essentially, shame. WH Smith's solid blandness, in this context, becomes a weakness because it exposes itself to the possibility of shame. With pornography this becomes a very potent weapon. Porn inhabits a fraught realm in which nobody can actually say they want it, but, equally, liberals find it difficult to say people should not have it because its availability seems to be a condition of free speech and the free society. Porn consumers, who must represent a substantial proportion of society in view of the sales figures, may well disapprove in public while huying in private. Pornography, more clearly than anything else, illuminates the hypocrisy that seems to be structurally inevitable in liberal society.

The new moralists find this hypocrisy intolerable and yet a useful pressure point. Their sudden appearance as opponents of liberal capitalism indicates the extent to which liberalism is seen to have failed. For the anti-porn feminists liberalism has failed because it appears to institutionalise the exploitation of women. For fundamentalists it has failed because it does not provide special protection for their sensibilities. And, for the moral right, it fails because it is ideologically incapable of applying a transcendental concept of virtue.

The corporate balancing act in all this moral anger and confusion has become more precarious than ever. WH Smith today finds itself wobbling awkwardly over a few mags. Silly perhaps, but, in these fragmented, media-driven times, moral apocalypse is everywhere, on every shelf, including the top.

No case for state prosecutors

ANOTHER VIEW

David Penry-Davey

of the Committee favoured this.

The majority's principal concern was that the employed advocate's ability to maintain sufficient independence could be undermined or that he or she might become "prosecution-minded". The majority also took account of the need, in a modern democracy, for the power of

the State to be open to scrutiny.

These are serious issues and it is not surprising that the Lord Chancellor and his fellow judges are taking time to consider them carefully. The guiding objective of any reform should be the prevention of ill-founded prosecutions or wrongful convictions and the efficient conviction of the guilty.

The Bar Council asks for no special protection, and has welcomed the advent of competition with solicitor advocates in the higher courts, to the extent that this will raise standards in the public interest.

But it remains true to say that the Bar's low overheads mean that the state does have access to independent lawyers of high calibre without having to meet any of the associated employment costs.

That is consistent with the trend in the public sector, now accepted by all parties in Westminster, of achieving best value for the public purse by contracting out services to specialist providers.

I imagine the taxpayer will want this particular advantage to be maintained, whatever the outcome of the next general election.

The writer is chairman of the Bar Council.

Protect Your Loved Ones With a Will



action for blind people
Helping practically every way we can

Action for Blind people's FREE Will Making Advice Booklet provides useful information on how to make or update your will.



"Having read this booklet I am now much clearer about the steps to take in preparing a Will. I hope you will find it as informative as I have."

Sue Cook

For your FREE copy, return this form to Peter Robson at Action for Blind People, FREEPOST, 14-16 Verney Road, London SE16 1BP or call him on 0171 732 8771

Please send me your free Will Making Advice Booklet

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Under The Terms of the data protection act, you have the right to advise us at any time if you do not wish to receive further mailings from us or charities with whom we co-operate.

DBSO Reg Charity no. 205813

UBS chairman casts doubt on wisdom of merger

PETER RODGERS
Business Editor

The prospect of a full-blown merger between Union Bank of Switzerland and CS Holding receded yesterday when Nikolaus Senn, chairman of UBS, said he was sceptical about the benefits of co-operation with any rival.

In London, UBS employs 2,500 and CS Holding, parent of Credit Suisse, CS First Boston and Credit Suisse Financial Products, employs 4,000. There are bound to be hundreds of London redundancies if a merger goes ahead, and there were reports yesterday that the total could reach thousands. Sources at the banks said not even preliminary work had been done on the jobs fall-out.

In an interview with the Swiss business newspaper *Finanz & Wirtschaft*, Mr Senn did not refer to any rival bank by name. But the interview took place

earlier this week, days after Rainer Gut, chairman of CS Holding, suggested to him that the two Swiss banking giants should discuss a merger.

The talks about creating the world's second-biggest bank were confirmed on Tuesday and UBS's board meets this afternoon to decide a response.

Analysts displayed growing doubts but said there was still a strong possibility of the talks leading to moves that fall short of a full merger.

There is urgent pressure on the big three Swiss banks to deal with enormous overcapacity in their home markets and they are

also anxious to build international investment banking operations to rival the leading American houses.

One factor that could persuade the UBS board to keep the door open to talks is a shareholders' meeting in Zurich next Tuesday at which Martin Ebner, a dissident shareholder, will try to overturn the promotion of Robert Studer, the former chief executive, to chairman.

Mr Ebner has been complaining for years about low returns for shareholders in UBS. The news of the merger proposal has overshadowed the shareholder meeting and is

seen by analysts as helping UBS get Mr Ebner off its back.

If the talks are called off completely, the focus could switch back to Mr Studer's new job. In Switzerland, a win by Mr Ebner has not been ruled out.

Mr Senn was asked whether UBS believed a direct competitor would be a potential candidate for a co-operation agreement aimed at lowering costs. He replied: "It is not the job of the chairman of the board to comment on detailed questions of strategy. But it is fundamentally questionable whether this kind of solution is

effective at all and would lead to real cost reductions."

Mr Senn's remarks confirmed a growing view in the markets - thought to be widely shared among UBS senior management - that the two banks overlap too much to make a full merger possible.

In London there are substantial overlaps in derivatives and bond trading. In corporate finance, CS First Boston is a more powerful force in the US, although there have been senior defections recently to UBS in New York. UBS has a stronger corporate finance track record in Europe. Analysts believe

15,000 retail banking jobs are at risk in Switzerland. Mr Senn also told *Finanz & Wirtschaft* that he believed UBS's retail banking activities had good chances in Switzerland.

CS Holding shares, which got off to a good start after news of the merger proposal emerged, slipped toward the end of the day and ended lower. UBS shares were under pressure from the start and closed almost 2 per cent lower. Dealers said the market was increasingly sceptical about the creation of a giant Swiss bank.



Nikolaus Senn: Merger strategy 'questionable'

Comment, page 21

Political row: Organisation distances itself from £50,000 initiative that sings the Government's praises

CBI snubs 'pro-Tory' campaign on economy

MICHAEL HARRISON

The Confederation of British Industry was embroiled in an embarrassing political row yesterday after refusing to endorse a campaign promoted by its incoming president, the British Airways chairman Sir Colin Marshall, extolling the Government's economic record.

The CBI's frantic attempt to distance itself from the controversial initiative is certain to cause friction in its ranks and was seized on yesterday by Labour.

Also among the dozen leading businessmen who have lent their names to the campaign are Sir David Lees, chairman of GKN, and Nigel Rudd, chairman of Williams Holdings and the glassmaker Pilkington, both of whom are members of the CBI's policy-making president's committee.

However, a CBI spokesman said: "We cannot endorse this campaign because we are not a party political organisation. Those who have backed it are

business leaders in their own right and they are entitled to do what they want in that capacity."

The initiative is estimated to have cost £50,000 and involves sending out 50,000 copies of a glossy brochure extolling the UK economy to other business leaders and opinion-formers.

The booklet is accompanied by a letter from the Prime Minister, John Major, and is similar to the last Conservative Party political broadcast, which used quotes from foreign newspapers and companies praising the UK economy.

The two organisers of the campaign - Sir Tim Bell, chairman of Lowe Bell, and Peter Gummer, chairman of the public relations firm Standwick, are well known as senior advisers to the Conservative Party.

Andrew Smith, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, said: "The Conservatives can produce as many glossy documents as they like in as many different guises but it will not make people feel any better about the economy. The fact remains that



Never had it so good: Sir Colin Marshall (right), Nigel Rudd (top left) and Sir David Lees are feeling better in Britain

hard-hit electors will not be convinced by brochures while they are living with the Tories' disastrous handling of the economy."

Among the companies quoted are Siemens, Philips, Toshiba and BMW, which describes Britain as "currently the most attractive country among all European locations for producing cars".

Sir Tim said funding was

raised by Mr Gummer through the Life's Better in Britain Foundation while Lowe Bell did the printing and distribution.

However, Sir Tim denied that it was a piece of party political propaganda. "In the sense that the Government is in charge of running the economy and the country it supports the Government. But there has been no attempt to be duplicitous or to deceive here

and it is not a devious way of putting out Tory propaganda."

Sir Tim said subscriptions had come from the businessmen whose names appear in the booklet and "one or two others who are not mentioned". But a BA spokesman said Sir Colin had not made any financial contribution either directly or through the airline.

The other businessmen named are: Lord Hanson,

chairman of Hanson, Christopher Lewington, chairman of T1, Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman of Slough Estates, Richard Oster, chief executive of Cookson, Dieter Bock, chief executive of Unipart, and Lord Sheppard, former chairman of Grand Metropolitan and now chairman of London First.

Comment, page 21

Government to relax FM radio licence rules

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

The Government is poised to relax the one-licence limit on FM radio, industry sources said last night. The move, expected to be confirmed when the Broadcasting Bill is debated in the Commons starting next week, will benefit leading commercial radio companies such as Capital, Emap and GWR, which have been campaigning for the change.

Under current rules, companies are limited to a single FM licence in each relevant region, in a bid to protect diversity and choice. But sources said the Government has been convinced of the need for liberalisation, particularly in highly competitive markets such as London and in very small regions, where separately owned licences are difficult to sustain.

The Radio Authority, which regulates the industry, has lobbied hard against the change. It insisted last night that the bid to relax the rule was still debating the issue. It argues that other promised liberalisation, including the eventual replacement of the total licence limit by a ceiling of 15 per cent across the industry, provided more than enough scope for growth.

A spokesman for the Department of National Heritage, which is sponsoring the Bill, said the issue was under review and no announcement has been made. But at least two large radio companies have told the concession will be granted. The Government is now considering how best to implement the change.

An amendment will be difficult to draft because of the huge variation in the radio licence areas. London, the largest market, sustains 28 radio stations, and is considered in a separate category. Allowing two FM licences per company in the capital is believed to be acceptable to the Government. In other markets, the case is harder to make, particularly if diversity and choice are to be maintained.

Large broadcasters have tended to broadcast a contemporary hits service on FM and a "Gold" format on AM. Following a relaxation in the rules, these companies could seek a second FM licence to broadcast their Gold service.

There are very few FM licences still to be awarded by the Radio Authority. The last for London was advertised this year, and is expected to attract considerable interest, particularly once the one-licence limit is lifted.

Companies could also buy "other" licence holders, but would be forced to accept all the licence conditions originally agreed with the Authority. After eight years, licences are put up for auction once again, allowing new buyers to bid.

Many broadcasters are eager to migrate away from AM, which is dogged by poor reception, particularly in built-up areas. Said one senior radio executive: "You get to hear the courier's radio messages and then the sound is lost altogether when you go under a bridge."

Publicly quoted companies such as Emap and Capital could see their shares rise on news of further liberalisation.

Rentokil set to raise BET bid

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Rentokil is today expected to raise its £1.9bn bid for rival business services group BET by between 10p and 15p a share, in what analysts believe will be a knock-out blow.

The pest control group met key BET institutional shareholders this week and was told that the rise would be enough to secure their acceptance.

Rentokil's shares dipped 5p to 363p yesterday in anticipation of increased terms, which have to be announced by tomorrow under takeover rules.

At the current share price, the existing offer of nine new shares plus 800p in cash for every 20 in BET values the latter at just over 203p. BET's shares are now well clear of those terms, even after yesterday's 0.5p fall left them at 207.5p.

The expectation that the increased terms will be announced a day ahead of the final deadline is likely to reflect Rentokil's need to organise underwriters for a higher cash element to the offer. However, observers suggested that more cash did not preclude an

increase in the share element as well.

One big institutional shareholder in BET said: "If there was an additional 10p to 15p on offer a betting man would say they [Rentokil] would win it." Another institutional holder of Rentokil said: "I think they will clinch it with a little bit more, but I wouldn't like to see much more than 10p."

Charles Pick, an analyst with Panmure Gordon, said: "I don't think they can afford not to raise it. There have been quite a few cases when just that little bit extra would have done it."

He suggested an offer increased to 215p to 218p, giving an exit price-earnings ratio of around 16.5 on his forecast earnings of 13p for the current year. "I would probably just about be enough to clinch it."

Both sides to the bid have been conducting a feverish round of visits to City shareholders this week, although at least one of the key institutions is not being seen until next week. It is thought that Rentokil will want to be able to come to that meeting with its final terms on the table.

German economic gloom deepens

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The gloom hanging over the German economy deepened yesterday with the eighth successive monthly rise in unemployment. But new doubt was cast on the Bundesbank's scope to cut interest rates by separate figures showing faster growth in its monetary target.

Germany's unemployment total adjusted for normal seasonal variations increased by 26,000 to 3.99 million, a new post-war record, although the headline unadjusted figure fell to 4.14 million from 4.27 million

the previous month. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 10.4 per cent. The only comfort was the fact that the March increase was lower than many economists had feared.

Bernhard Jagoda, head of the Federal Labor Office, said: "The German labour market started its spring recovery in March but it was limited." He blamed factors such as the unusually cold weather and early Easter holidays, saying the outlook for jobs was as bleak as the mood of gloom implied.

However, some financial market analysts disagreed.

"Firms are laying off, not hiring. They will not start to rehire until they once again feel confident that Germany is a good place to invest," said Holger Schmieding at the investment bank Merrill Lynch in Frankfurt.

Many forecasts predict rising joblessness throughout the year, even though growth is expected to pick up, because of underlying structural problems. The German economy is seen as over-regulated, with extremely high labour costs.

"Germany is going through what happened in the UK in the early 1980s," said Stephen King, an economist at the brokers

James Capel. Part of the solution to the unemployment problem would be deregulation and the reduction of social security costs, he said.

Views on whether the Bundesbank would react to the bad news about the economy were mixed because of figures yesterday showing that growth of its M3 monetary target was higher than originally estimated. The money supply grew at an annualised rate of 12.8 per cent, up from a first estimate of 12.6 per cent, in February, compared with the final quarterly of last year. The target for this year is 4-7 per cent.

Barfield to leave Standard Life

NIC CICUTTI

Dick Barfield, the high-profile chief investment manager at Standard Life, the largest mutual insurer in Europe, with more than £44bn under management, is to leave the company.

He will be replaced by John Thomson, who has been with the life office for 13 years, later as assistant general manager in charge of development.

Standard Life said yesterday there were no hidden reasons for his departure, due at the end of June. Mr Barfield, who had been a campaigner for better corporate governance, had personally decided to seek alternative work outside the company, where he has worked for 26 years.

Sandy Crombie, general manager in charge of investment, to whom Mr Barfield reported, said: "I have accepted

Dick's decision to leave with regret. He has served the company with distinction for more than 26 years and built for us a very successful investment team."

Mr Barfield said: "The time has come for me to have a change of direction. I feel very positive about the company... and I am convinced that it will go from strength to strength both as an insurer and as a fund manager."

change which allows me to use in a different capacity the knowledge and experience I have built up over many years."

During his eight years as chief investment manager, Mr Barfield built a reputation as a strong believer in the merits of better corporate governance among the companies Standard Life has invested in, devising the insurance office's policy on the subject earlier this year.



Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1995/96 High	1995/96 Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	3767.40	+8.80	+0.2	3781.30	3639.50	3.93
FTSE 250	4387.10	+10.00	+0.2	4387.10	4015.30	3.39
FTSE 350	1896.10	+4.40	+0.2	1896.10	1816.80	3.81
FT Small Cap	2114.94	+5.24	+0.2	2114.94	1954.06	3.05
FT All Share	1874.25	+4.39	+0.2	1874.25	1791.95	3.75
New York	5565.10	+4.69	+0.1	5689.74	3832.08	2.11
Tokyo	21791.70	+47.53	+0.2	21791.70	19734.70	0.72
Hong Kong	11077.55	-29.82	-0.3	11894.99	10073.39	3.25
Frankfurt	2530.02	+26.76	+1.1	2530.02	2253.88	1.86

Source: FT Information



Money Market Rates				Bond Yields			
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	Index	1 Year	2 Year	10 Year
UK	5.94	6.38	8.10	UK	8.37	8.19	8.38
US	5.53	5.69	6.59	US	7.08	6.88	7.36
Japan	0.50	0.87	3.20	Japan	2.80	-	-
Germany	3.31	3.31	6.43	Germany	7.10	7.17	-

MAIN PRICE CHANGES			
Index	Price	Change	% Change
Miner Group	232	12	5.5
Thames Water	563	15	2.6
Unilever	245	9	3.8
British Biotech	2380	68	2.4
Woolsey	454	15	3.4
Codnam	522	10	1.9



Pound				Dollar			
Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
\$ (London)	1.5166	-0.050	1.5884	\$ (London)	0.6594	+0.37	0.6295
\$ (NY)	1.5215	-0.30	1.5582	\$ (NY)	0.6572	+0.12	0.6277
DM (London)	2.2743	-0.074	2.2313	DM (London)	1.4987	+0.79	1.4048
¥ (London)	154.527	-10.524	133.549	¥ (London)	108.495	+10.265	84.08
£ Index	83.7	-0.2	84.3	£ Index	98.7	+0.3	88.6

OTHER INDICATORS			
Index	Yesterday	Day's change	Year Ago
Oil Brent	21.13	+0.43	18.83
Gold \$	385.20	-1.8	390.10
Gold £	260.50	+0.4	245.59
Base Rates	-	-	5.00pc
6.75	-	-	-

Graduate

Graduate plus is the marketplace with editorial and recruitment targeted at both undergraduates and graduates with 2 - 3 years relevant experience

See page 22 - 26 section two

To book your advertisement call the Graduate Team on 0171 293 2312

Every Thursday in the **THE INDEPENDENT** section two

April 11 1996

Murdoch wins a battle in the satellite war

COMMENT

It must have given Michael Heseltine much pleasure in signing up the News Corp chairman after all the cosying up Mr Blair has done to Mr Murdoch.

The politicians clearly believe that there are more votes to be garnered from the information superhighway than just those of the anorak brigade.

Last October New Labour brought out its big gun in the form of a pledge by BT to cable up every school and library in the land for free provided it was given the right to broadcast entertainment services on its network.

Now we know what the Government's secret weapon is – an offer from one other than Rupert Murdoch to place a satellite dish on top of every classroom in return for unfettered access to digital television – the technology of tomorrow.

BT and BSkyB are serious players and their willingness to line up on either side of the political trenches speaks volumes about the opportunities, not to mention the profits, to be had from the superhighway.

As an act on one-upmanship it must have given the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, much pleasure in signing up the News Corporation chairman after all the cosying up Tony Blair has done to Mr Murdoch.

But on closer inspection there is something that differs crucially between the two pacts with BT and News Corp. In BT's case Labour first has to deal with the small matter of getting into power. It is only then that the hard bargaining will begin. Meanwhile the party can bask in the reflected glory that comes from being in the vanguard of the

technology revolution, without actually having to deliver.

In the case of Mr Murdoch, however, the Government already appears to have delivered on its half of the bargain.

It may, of course, be pure coincidence that shortly after Messrs Heseltine and Murdoch hatched their plan over a discreet lunch six weeks ago, the Government introduced an amendment to the Broadcasting Bill that allows News Corp's 40 per cent-owned BSkyB full control of a licensed UK-based satellite service. At a stroke this would allow Mr Murdoch to send a digital satellite into space to beam back to UK homes. This in turn would free capacity on his existing Astra satellites, which are operated from Luxembourg, for use by BSkyB and its European pay-TV partners whilst radically extending the depth and spread of its reach in the UK through the much greater capacity that digital can handle.

The Government amendment could, of course, also give the Mirror Group the ability to operate its own domestic satellite service, but the most obvious beneficiary is News Corp.

Panic on the streets of Zurich

Anxiety and alarm were rampant yesterday in the corridors of the Canary Wharf operations of CS Holding and the

Broadgate offices of UBS, three miles away in the City of London. This is hardly surprising.

SBC's takeover last year of Warburg was a vivid demonstration of the pain caused by rationalisation in an investment bank. Large chunks of UBS and CS Holding's investment banking operations in London overlap.

The consequences do not cease spelling out for the highly paid employees of the two banks. The next couple of years will be hell if the merger gets off the ground.

The rapidly emerging consensus in London and Zurich yesterday was that a full merger is unlikely to be achieved, regardless of what comes out of the UBS board meeting this afternoon.

Brokers' analysts who attended a meeting with Mathis Caballavetta, the UBS chief executive, did not come away with an impression of a man raring to go in for some Anglo-Saxon-style financial engineering and corporate restructuring.

The real difficulty lies not with integrating the investment bank offshoots in London and New York, where the synergies in corporate finance and equities may well outweigh the disadvantages in overlapping fixed interest and derivatives businesses. On paper, the idea of what would essentially be a transatlantic alliance – because of CS First Boston's strength in New York – does look rather attractive for Swiss bankers with global ambitions.

The problem is with the overbanked

domestic Swiss market. UBS appears to have gone further down the road towards rationalising its branches than CS Holding, which has recently bought not one but two smaller rivals in the home market and is in the process of digesting them. There does not seem much appetite inside UBS's boardroom for sharing the pain with another bank that has not done as much or as fast.

However, it would be dangerous to dismiss the talks as ephemeral, or to see the leak on Tuesday as no more than a ploy by UBS to take investors' attention away from Martin Ebner, the dissident shareholder who next Tuesday plans to vote against the election of Robert Studer as the new chairman. This week's events may be the start of a long-winded process that does lead to some form of co-operation and rationalisation.

By all accounts, the pressure within Switzerland to sort out the overpriced, overstaffed and overbranched banking market is very great. The concern that something must be done is shared by the Swiss Banking Commission. For UBS and CS Holding even to discuss a merger is a breakthrough of a sort.

If UBS were smaller, CS Holding might short-circuit the board's opposition with a hostile bid which – contrary to widespread belief – is not completely out of the question in Switzerland, in spite of the country's very different views on corporate governance. CS Holding made a hostile bid for Bank Leu in 1990. It is sheer size and the

complexity of shareholding structures that rule out a hostile attack among the big three banks.

Colour-coding at the CBI

Memo to Sir Colin Marshall: You may not take over as president of the Confederation of British Industry until May but the important thing to bear in mind always is that this is a "non-political" organisation.

We appreciate that your *Better in Britain* booklet is designed to promote our economy and the joys of doing business here.

But to the untutored eye it could look like a piece of Conservative Central Office propaganda. Perhaps it has something to do with all that blue on the cover or the accompanying letter from Mr Major or the role of Sir Tim Bell in putting it all together.

Or perhaps it has something to do with the booklet's striking resemblance to the last Tory party political broadcast and the cut of the other chaps who have lent their endorsement. Lord Hanson is, after all, not renowned for his socialist instincts.

The folk at the CBI run a mile from being branded political animals, which is perhaps why they have declined to endorse your effort.

But don't worry – you'll be seeing a lot of the president's council in the year ahead. At least two of them are on your side.

Granada will take time over disposals

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

Granada, the media and leisure giant, is in no hurry to sell off £2bn worth of assets earmarked for disposal, Charles Allen, the company's chief executive, said yesterday.

"There is no timetable, and the real objective is maximising returns to our shareholders," he said as Granada unveiled its first trading statement since winning its £3.9bn hostile bid for Fortis, the hotels and restaurants company.

It said the company intended to drive a hard bargain with potential purchasers, and would not do deals at low prices, despite having taken on debts of £3.5bn to finance the takeover.

Granada has said it would sell Fortis's Welcome Break motorway service operations, its Exclusive and Meriden hotels

and stakes in the Savoy Group and Alpha Airports, in order to reduce debt. Analysts speculated that Whitbread, the food and drink company, would be the leading contender for the Welcome Break sites.

The stakes in Alpha and the Savoy would be sold by the end of the financial year, in September, Mr Allen hinted yesterday. He identified a "strategic buyer" for Alpha, probably another airports catering company, and said a "buyer acceptable to the management and the owners" would be found for the 66 per cent minority voting stake held in the Savoy.

The Wontner family, which controls the luxury hotels group, fought a long battle with Sir Rocco Forte, who had attempted a takeover. Mr Allen said relations between Granada and the Wontners were good. "There isn't the antagonism

that there was between Forte and the Savoy," he said.

The Meriden and Exclusive chains would be auctioned once a list of "pre-qualifying buyers" was determined. Mr Allen said Sir Rocco, who has been seeking financing to win back some of his hotels empire, would be welcome to make an offer.

Mr Allen added that the company would easily reach its goal of enhancing profits from the Forte operations by £100m in the first year, by cutting overheads and centralising purchasing. Granada has already shed 100 jobs at Forte, and expects to make further layoffs.

Granada has also pushed prices higher at its hotels and restaurants. But Mr Allen insisted consumers would be getting value. "If I have to pay £15 for an afternoon tea, it had better be good. At some Forte hotels, some of it was not."

In the hotels division, the



Maximum return. Charles Allen says there is no timetable for the £2bn of disposals

company has reorganised operations into three – London, UK provincial and overseas. Granada is planning to keep Forte's Travelodge and Posthouse chains.

The company reported no lasting effects from the BSE "mad cow" beef scare, although

sales at Burger King outlets at its motorway service stations declined sharply in the few days following the crisis.

The end of the IRA ceasefire has had little or no effect on room occupancy, although Mr Allen said: "Personally, I was anxious about that." In televi-

sion and rentals, results were at or above expectations. Granada's two ITV licence holders, Granada Television and London Weekend Television, saw their share of national advertising reach 23 per cent in the first three months of 1996, up nearly 7 per cent.

IN BRIEF

• Hundreds of Barings bondholders, who lost £100m when the bank collapsed last year in the wake of £800m losses incurred by rogue trader Nick Leeson, yesterday applied to the courts to start legal action against two Barings holding companies in administration. If leave to commence action is granted by the Companies Court, the bondholders action group plans to issue writs, alleging omission and untrue or misleading statements, against all Barings directors, including Peter Barings, Andrew Tuckey and Peter Norris. A decision by the court is expected in about two months. The bondholders also plan to issue writs against the three issuing houses involved: Hoare Govett Corporate Finance, Cazenove & Co and Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

• A handful of signs of recovery in the UK economy emerged yesterday, bouncing earlier gloomy figures on manufacturing output. The leading indicators for the economy rose in February for the first time in more than 18 months, pointing to faster growth later this year. Separate figures from the Finance and Leasing Association showed near-record levels of growth in finance for business investment in February. The F&L reported that demand for finance for new plant and equipment jumped by 63 per cent in the 12 months to February, to £917m. There was a huge rise, of 291 per cent to £317m, in finance for projects over £5m. Demand for high street credit and new car finance remained strong.

• The Government has raised almost £80m from the sale of its residual stakes in six water companies. SBC Warburg won the auction to buy the shares in a single block, bidding slightly above Tuesday's closing prices, and is thought to have already placed the stock. The shares disposed of represented around 1 per cent or less of Hyder (formerly Welsh Water), Anglian Water, Southern Water, Yorkshire Water, Thames Water and United Utilities. The Government has retained stakes in South West Water, Wessex Water and Severn Trent because of potential bids.

• Japan's current account surplus shrank in February thanks to strong import growth and an increase in overseas travel by the Japanese. The surplus for the month was ¥745.9bn, 39 per cent lower than a year earlier. Imports of goods soared by 46 per cent during the 12 month period, compared with a 16.6 per cent rise in exports. The deficit on trade in services rose to ¥510.9bn, up from ¥417.4bn a year earlier.

• Former Walt Disney Studios chairman Jeffrey Katzenberg is believed to have filed a suit against the Walt Disney company claiming he is owed 2 per cent of profits for many of the movies, TV shows and other deals he made during his employment at the group. He estimates that 2 per cent will come to \$250m.

• The price of oil jumped to its highest since November 1991. The price of the benchmark Brent crude for May delivery jumped \$1.10 to \$21.80 a barrel by 6.15pm. Oil stocks have been severely depleted by the bitter winter. The price has also been influenced by US refinery problems and the expectation that United Nations talks about Iraqi supplies will not reach an early agreement.

Brussels looks set to block Lonrho-Gencor merger

MICHAEL HARRISON

Speculation is mounting that Brussels will block the planned link up between Lonrho and South African group Gencor to create the world's second biggest platinum producer.

It is thought that the European Commission's mergers task force has come down against the merger and that its

decision was backed by a meeting on Tuesday of an advisory committee consisting of competition policy officials from member states.

Lonrho sources indicated yesterday that both bodies had blocked the merger, which would create a grouping with production of about 1.6 million ounces of platinum a year.

However, that may not be

entirely bad news for Lonrho as it could ease the way for the world's highest platinum producer to increase its stake in Lonrho's mining operations when the planned demerger from the group's trading and hotels business takes place this summer.

Anglo-American already owns 10 per cent of Lonrho and is thought to want to raise its

stake to just under 30 per cent. Last month Anglo snapped up Tiny Rowland's 5.9 per cent stake in Lonrho for £91m and secured first right of refusal to buy chief executive Dieter Bock's 18.5 per cent stake should he decide to sell.

Lonrho refused to comment on suggestions that the South African group was now seeking to secure a fixed price option on

the Bock stake though analysts believe he would sell out if offered £2.50 a share.

But analysts said it was clear that Anglo was intent on emerging as a significant minority shareholder in Lonrho's platinum, gold and coal mining operations when they are demerged from its trading and hotel businesses this summer.

"It would be very happy,

when the break-up occurs, to own about 30 per cent of the mining companies," said one Johannesburg-based analyst.

The main attraction for Anglo is Lonrho's 41 per cent stake in Ashanti Goldfields but it also has a majority stake in coal producer Duiker Exploration and is merging its platinum interests with those of Geocor of South Africa.

2 for 1 Lufthansa flights with THE INDEPENDENT

Take off for a spring break with The Independent's great value 2 for 1 flight deal. We've got together with Lufthansa, the award-winning German airline renowned for its warm and friendly service, reliability and quality, to give readers a superb deal on flights to 131 destinations from the Lufthansa global network, with departures from London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow.

You can choose from a range of destinations throughout Europe, Asia and the Pacific, North and South America, Africa and the Middle East.

There are some superb prices available, with no increase in price if you are travelling from one of Lufthansa's regional airports.

Many flights require a transfer on route to the chosen destination, but Lufthansa make it easy, with most connections taking around 45 minutes in Frankfurt and 35 minutes in Munich.

You must spend a minimum of three nights in Europe, and five nights in Intercontinental destinations.

HOW TO QUALIFY

- Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven we will be publishing until Saturday 13 April. Today we are printing Token 5.
- Complete the application form printed today. Attach your tokens and send to: Independent/Lufthansa Offer, Fenton Way, Basildon, Essex SS15 6SL, to arrive no later than 30 April 1996.
- Within 14 days, you will receive an information pack. It will contain your 2 for 1 flight voucher, a booking request form, booking conditions and flight schedule information. There will also be details of a special offer on Budget Rent-a-car, only available to our readers.

HOW TO BOOK

- Decide upon your 2 for 1 departure airport, destination and dates of travel. Fill out the booking request form in your information pack. Then post or fax your completed booking request form to Trailfinders (ASTA 69701 and V0889), our appointed booking agent. You will find full details of their address and fax numbers in your full information pack. No bookings or flight options can be made by phone.

- Trailfinders will process your request and confirm if your favoured option is available, in which case Trailfinders will reserve your flights. You will then have 5 working days to pay for your flights in full and to surrender your 2 for 1 voucher. Final payment can be made by cheque or major credit card.

- If your favoured option is unavailable Trailfinders will try to suggest an alternative. All bookings must be made at least 7 working days before your first departure date to ensure ticket delivery. Flight tickets will be issued only after payment and surrender of your 2 for 1 voucher. There is no facility to provide tickets at the departure airport.

- All travel must start no earlier than 22nd April 1996 and no later than 30th June 1996. All travel must be completed by 31st July 1996.

- If you have any queries regarding this offer, please call the promotion enquiries helpline on 0345 252252 between 9am and 5pm including weekends and public holidays.
- Terms and conditions are as previously published. 1996 and no later than 30th June 1996. All travel must be completed by 31st July 1996.

- If you have any queries regarding this offer, please call the promotion enquiries helpline on 0345 252252 between 9am and 5pm including weekends and public holidays.
- Terms and conditions are as previously published.

Example Fares and Destinations

The flight prices shown are the cost Independent/Independent on Sunday readers will pay for two tickets using this offer.			
EUROPE		ASIA/PACIFIC	
Rome	£289	Bangkok	£899
Stockholm	£259	Delhi	£699
Vienna	£269	Kuala Lumpur	£899
Copenhagen	£259	Hong Kong	£1,059
Nice	£289		
EASTERN EUROPE		SOUTH AMERICA	
Bucharest	£289	Buenos Aires	£1,159
Prague	£329	Caracas	£869
Budapest	£339	Mexico City	£729
St Petersburg	£399		
AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST			
Johannesburg	£939		
Cape Town	£979		



EXPLORE THE WORLD, DISCOVER LUFTHANSA 131 destinations to choose from

Lufthansa

WESTERN EUROPE: Ankara, Antalya, Athens, Barcelona, Berlin, Bologna, Copenhagen, Faro, Florence, Geneva, Graz, Hamburg, Innsbruck, London, Lyon, Madrid, Malaga, Marseille, Milan (Linate), Milan (Malpensa), Naples, Nice, Oslo, Paris, Rome, Rome, Stockholm, Thessalonika, Toulouse, Turin, Venice, Vienna, Zurich.

EASTERN EUROPE: Athens, Bratislava, Bucharest, Bucharest, Budapest, Graz, Hamburg, Innsbruck, London, Lyon, Madrid, Malaga, Marseille, Milan (Linate), Milan (Malpensa), Naples, Nice, Oslo, Paris, Rome, Rome, Stockholm, Thessalonika, Toulouse, Turin, Venice, Vienna, Zurich.

AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST: Abu Dhabi, Accra, Addis Ababa, Alexandria, Amman, Bahrain, Cairo, Cape Town, Casablanca, Damascus, Dubai, Jeddah, Johannesburg, Khartoum, Kuwait, Lagos, Lima, Nairobi, Riyadh, Sana'a, Tehran, Tel Aviv, Tunis, Windhoek.

NORTH AMERICA: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York JFK, Newark, San Francisco, Toronto, Vancouver, Washington.

SOUTH AMERICA: Bogota, Buenos Aires, Caracas, Lima, Mexico City, Quito, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago, Sao Paulo.

THE INDEPENDENT/LUFTHANSA APPLICATION FORM

Please complete and attach 4 differently numbered tokens, then send to Independent/Lufthansa Offer, Fenton Way, Basildon, Essex SS15 6SL. Applications to be received by 30 April 1996.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Daytime Tel No _____

ATTACH YOUR 4 TOKENS HERE

Lufthansa

TOKEN

5

THE INDEPENDENT

business

Uncertain market for Smurfit

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

The outlook for the paper cycle has seldom been so uncertain and Jefferson Smurfit, the Irish paper giant, is not alone in being unable to guess whether the recent industry inventory correction represents a de-stocking pause or the end of the cycle.

After soaring last year, prices in some areas of the industry have come rattling back down again. Pulp, for instance, is now selling for around \$500 a ton compared with \$925 in October. At the same time there is no shortage of capacity, particularly in the US where new plant is set to further increase supplies of the corrugated board used in packing cases.

All this gloom is hard to reconcile with Smurfit's bounding optimism six months ago and yesterday's announcement of record 1995 profits totalling £420m (£433m), the highest ever seen by an Irish company. But Dermot Smurfit, joint deputy chairman, refuses to be downhearted.

Certainly, the group has world-leading positions in areas ranging from boxes and cartons to the container board that goes into them. It also supplies much of the paper used to make its own products, helping to reduce exposure to the more volatile parts of the paper markets. Smurfit points out, for example, that the full in price of corrugated boxes – from around \$873 a ton in the autumn to \$820 now – is nothing like the drop in other areas. Smurfit's wide geographical spread also helps to spread risk.

Those strengths meant the group was able to cash in on last year's price recovery, although the results were distorted by acquisitions and a change of year end in 1994. The first full 12 months of Cellulose du Pin, the paper and packaging operations of Saint-Gobain acquired for £168.4m in 1994, boosted profits from continental operations from £134.6m to £195m last year.

Even so, with a return on capital well in excess of 20 per cent last year, the group has a fair chance of achieving its target of 15 per cent across the business cycle. The problem is that, given the integration of the world-wide industry, Smurfit's strengths become weaknesses in a downturn. Along with rivals, Jefferson Smurfit Corporation, the group's 46 per cent-owned separately-quoted associate in the US, had to shut mills at the end of last year.

Profits cut to £126m this year would put the shares, up 3p to 163p, on a lowly forward multiple of 10. Apart from uncertainty over the cycle, Smurfit's rating suffers from the group's state of limbo between the Irish market, which it has clearly outgrown, the UK and the US. The expected appointment

of a new chief operating officer in the next few months will help clear up corporate governance worries in the UK, but it has still not been fully welcomed into the British investment community. A recovery may be some way off yet.

A smart turn-out from Moss Bros

In a low inflation, highly competitive menswear market, producing an underlying 9 per cent rise in sales was an impressive performance from Moss Bros. Coupled with a healthy opening programme, and on a relatively fixed cost base, profits really took off, jumping 53 per cent in the year to January.

The £1.3m pre-tax profits for the 12-month period represented a 31.3 per cent return on shareholders' funds, a chunky improvement on last year's 22 per cent return and a massive increase on the 5 per cent return on assets recorded in the bleak days of the early-1990s recession.

Investors shared in the good news with a 50 per cent rise in the full-year dividend to 18p (13p), almost four times the payout five years ago. Despite heavy, and rising, capital expenditure, strong

positive cashflow has kept the south London-based group's cash balances at almost half shareholders' funds.

That financial security underpinned the addition of 22 shops last year to take the total to 129 by the year end. A further 10 or 12 are planned every year for the rest of the decade and the company is confident the intrinsic operational gearing of the business will ensure that margins continue rising during that period.

How Moss Bros has bucked the trend on the high street is something of a mystery, explained only in the vaguest terms by the company – providing better service, creating a welcoming atmosphere – but no one will argue with the figures. The Moss Bros formula, now spread over Savoy Taylor's Guild, Suit Company and Cecil Gee, is working.

Investors who have seen the shares rise almost eightfold during the past three years certainly have no gripes. Since the beginning of 1993, the shares have outperformed the market by more than 300 per cent, rising from 139p to yesterday's 795p, up another 36p on the day.

What Moss Bros seems to have got right is to realise that shopping for most men is a bit of a penance. Making the process as easy as possible ensures return trade and encourages higher spending on each trip – to get it all out of the

way. With prices rising by a negligible 3 per cent last year, volume is the key, so an increase in market share from 7 to 9 per cent and a further jump in sales per employee are encouraging signs.

On forecast profits of £142m this year, the shares trade on a prospective P/E of 15. That represents an 8 per cent premium to the rest of the market, but in the context of 26 per cent earnings growth it is justified. Still good value.

Yule builds on its reputation

Yule Catto has managed to reduce earnings per share only once in the past 15 years. Most investors will be happy to forgive the chemicals group that one blemish on its record, particularly since it related to losses on a Dutch building products subsidiary in 1993 when the construction industry was badly booming.

Yesterday's figures for 1995 served only to reinforce the group's solid reputation for growth. Pre-tax profits up 16 per cent to £33.1m for the 12 months to December were only a tad less than expectations six months ago, despite a ferocious year for raw material prices. Styrene, one of the group's key inputs, doubled between the second and third quarters and has since come back down to where it was at the beginning of the year.

It was therefore hardly surprising that Yule suffered a margin squeeze of more than 1 per cent in the second half. It did well to hold the drop in operating margins over the year to just 0.2 per cent, leaving them at a still healthy 8.8 per cent.

The continuing recovery in building products, which encompass businesses like roof lights, office partitions and sheet plastic helped the figures. The division did well to raise profits from £6.3m to £7.6m in the face of a dismal UK construction market, reflecting continuing benefits from slaking up the business three or four years ago.

The outlook should now be set fair for a period of more stability for the group. Order books on the building side are back to "sensible" levels, chemical volumes look like holding up and, more importantly, steadier raw material prices should allow margins to bottom. Profits of £38m this year would put the shares, unchanged at 336p, on a market rating of 14.5.

Still reasonable value, although the 20 per cent family holding and 29 per cent held by Kuala Lumpur Kepong, a Malaysian plantation group, make for a tight market.

Nationwide makes sharp cut in bid for lost youth

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK



Spot the difference: The two faces of Brian Davis

Nationwide Building Society hit the headlines for two reasons this week. It introduced the lowest mortgage rate since 1965 and its chief executive, Brian Davis, 51, shaved off his moustache.

"There is no connection at all," Mr Davis protested unconvincedly yesterday. "Shaving the mortgage rate just happened to coincide. I've shaved the moustache off before – the last time was a year ago, for charity. I'll have to wait for my family's verdict to see whether I grow it back. Some people say it makes me look younger."

The last thing the Liberal Democrats like is to be upstaged by Labour, and so yesterday the Lib Dems wrote to SBC Warburg with their plans for "reacquiring a controlling interest in Railtrack" following privatisation. Labour already know their own plans will be included in the prospectus to be published on Monday, under the heading "political risk".

Bankers were hating around SBC Warburg yesterday working out the implications of the Lib Dem "me too" statement, but were at a loss as to whether they would also figure in the prospectus. The best they could come up with was: "Certainly political risk will be fully addressed."

Peter Gummer, chairman of spin doctors Shandwick and brother of John Selwyn Gummer, the Environment Secretary, was the man behind the Tory propaganda booklet sent out yesterday in which a

dozen businessmen extolled the Prime Minister, John Major. The wheeze was dreamt up by something called the "Life's Better in Britain" foundation, which should have its work cut out with the agricultural sector.

Mr Gummer was unavailable for comment yesterday – he was on holiday in Mustique, leaving fellow Tory PR adviser Sir Tim Bell to field calls.

British Airways' chief executive, Robert Ayling, will be named Advertiser of the Year by the International Advertising Festival, a spokeswoman said yesterday. The chief of "the world's favourite airline" will receive the accolade in June at the Cannes International Advertising Festival.

The next time you're in a jet about to take off and the air hostess starts explaining how to tie the life jacket on, take a closer look. If it's a Virgin flight to the US it could be

Lisa Leeson, wife of Nick Leeson, the derivatives trader who brought down Barings Bank.

Lisa applied in the usual way – the normally publicity-mad company insists it was an "unsolicited application" – and hopes to get on the Singapore route so that she can visit her incarcerated hubby.

Virgin said yesterday: "She will fly on trans-Atlantic routes initially and as with all new Virgin Atlantic cabin crews, Lisa has to complete six months' service before qualifying for concessionary Virgin flights and one year before receiving discounts on other carriers."

In these days of complaints about glass ceilings and the lack of women in top management, full marks to FI Group, whose shares started trading yesterday and where four out of the top five executives are female.

FI has 17 per cent of the UK market in "Standalone Applications Management" according to UBS, which in English means it provides support for specific computer systems to third parties. Chief executive Hilary Cropper, deputy chief executive Jo Connell, director of business expansion Lyn Barrat and group marketing director Tricia Gardom lead the charge.

FI shares well ahead on first day

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

The conservative pricing of the placing which launched software group FI on the stockmarket yesterday ensured a handsome profit for a handful of institutional investors as the shares jumped to an immediate premium. They closed at 300p, 65p above the placing price.

Other beneficiaries of the flotation included Mrs Steve Shirley, who founded the com-

pany in 1962 and still owns 5.3 million shares in FI. Her stake was worth over £15m at yesterday's closing price.

Hilary Cropper, chief executive since 1987, saw the value of her 917,000 options soar. The exercise price of those options, which were granted between 1988 and 1993, range from just 27p a share to 44.9p a share. In addition to her options, Ms Cropper has a beneficial interest in 764,000 shares, worth more than £2m.

The flotation also created a valuable share stake for Sir Peter Thompson, the former chairman of NCF and since 1990 FI's non-executive chairman, whose 890,000 share holding is worth almost £2.7m. Deputy chief executive Jo Connell's holding was yesterday valued at £1.5m.

A buoyant market debut had been expected for FI after initial soundings by joint sponsors UBS and Granville came up with demand for six times the

7.9m shares that the company finally decided to place.

Investors focused on the strong growth in profits from FI in recent years as it has cashed in on the increasing trend for companies to contract out their information technology requirements. Unlike some other parts of the computer sector, the facilities and applications management work that FI specialises in has reliable, predictable and currently fast growing revenues.

Although the price at which FI closed yesterday represents a substantial multiple of forecast earnings for the year ending this month, strong profits growth in the year to April 1997 is expected to bring the rating lower.

On the basis of forecast earnings of 11.3p this year the shares stand on a prospective P/E ratio of 27, well in excess of the ratings enjoyed by most of FI's peers, including Logica, Capita, Misys and Sema.

Recovery in luxury car market motors on

MAGNUS GRIMOND

The recovery amongst Britain's luxury car makers has continued into 1996 with Rolls-Royce reporting a 12 per cent rise in volumes so far this year and Jaguar announcing plans for a big increase in Japanese sales.

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars said it had sold 396 cars across the world in the first three months of the year, up from 353 in the first quarter of 1995. Sales were up in all areas except Japan and continental Europe, the company said. In Japan, 30 cars were sold in the first quarter of 1996 compared with 35 in the same period of 1995. On the Continent, sales totalled 42 cars in the latest period, down from 55 in the same period, down from 55 in the same period, down from 55 in the same period.

The overall figures continue a trend of rising sales seen last year, when Rolls launched its most expensive car ever, a £220,000 Bentley. Sales in 1995 of 1,556 cars represented a 10 per cent increase on the year before. The recovery at the luxury car subsidiary from losses in 1991/92 has helped drive much of the profits growth at Vickers. The tanks to baby incubators group headed by chief executive Sir Colin Chandler reported 1995 profits up two-thirds to £75m last month, with the automotive side almost doubling from £21m to £40.9m. However, Rolls-Royce sales were still only around half the



Sir Colin Chandler: Rolls drove the profits rise at Vickers

level of 1990, before the subsidiary hit problems.

Separately, Jaguar Japan, a subsidiary of Ford's British luxury car maker, said it hoped to boost local vehicle sales to 8,000 units a year by 1999 from around 2,500 at present. It said it planned to double its sales outlets to 80 by 1999 to support the forecast sales growth.

The announcement is further good news for the West Midlands-based car maker, which last month won £72m in Government aid to support the manufacture of a new model in the UK.

The X200 mid-range Jaguars will be built on new assembly lines at the company's Castle Bromwich works and are set to go on sale in 1998.

Alpha stake sale confirmed

TOM STEVENSON

Flat pre-tax profits at Alpha Airports were overshadowed yesterday by confirmation from Granada that it plans to sell its 25 per cent stake in the airport services group by September, as one of the first of its planned disposals. Granada inherited the holding when it acquired Forte at the start of the year.

Briefing analysts yesterday, Gerry Robinson confirmed that Granada planned to sell the Alpha investment on to a "strategic buyer" some time before its own year end in September. The sale of Alpha would mark the latest stage in a dramatic consolidation of the airport services industry, which over the last year has seen the number of large players halve through takeover. Alpha's shares nudged 2p higher yesterday to 121p after the company confirmed the

difficult trading highlighted in a profits warning in February which dashed hopes that a first-half setback would be recovered in the second half. Problems arising from the industry's consolidation have been compounded by airlines putting the squeeze on suppliers.

In the year to January, Alpha's second as a public company following the spin-off from Forte, pre-tax profits slid from £21.4m to £20.6m despite a 16 per cent rise in turnover to £552.9m. Earnings per share fell to 9.24p (10p), but strong cash flow allowed a final dividend of 3.25p to be paid, making a total for the year of 5p, an 8.7 per cent increase.

Hardest hit was catering services, where Alpha struggled to make up for the loss of an £11m contract with British Airways at JFK Airport in New York. That contract represented about 50

per cent of the group's turnover at JFK and its loss contributed to the fall in catering profits from £13.9m to £10.3m.

The chief executive, Paul Harrison, remained optimistic, however: "We expect catering to improve as growth continues across all sectors of aviation services. Airlines enjoyed a better market in 1995/96 and that is set to continue. I believe the industry has reached the bottom of its cycle."

Retail services fared much better, with operating margins up from 2.9 per cent to 3.2 per cent, pushing operating profits £1.4m higher to £9.7m. During the year, Alpha reached agreement with the government of Sri Lanka to buy 60 per cent of Orient Lanka, the airport duty free operator at Bandaranaike International Airport, where Orient has a 10-year concession on the sale of duty free.

ORANGE ONLY GIVE
YOU HALF AS
MUCH AIRTIME FOR
YOUR MONEY.
(BUT, HEY, THEIR BILLS
ARE TWICE AS LONG.)



RING 0800 21 4000 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THE NET THAT SETS YOU FREE.



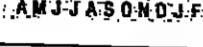
125
MINUTES MAXIMUM FOR
£26.44 ON REGULAR CALLER PLUS*
CELLNET

*Based on equivalent recommended tariffs. 125 mins max of off-peak calls. Prepaid reduces when peak-time calls are made. Telecom Securities Cellular Network

4741001320

DATA BANK

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



index, leaving it just 13.9 from its peak. The blue-chip index, measuring the 100 top shares, has lagged behind the secondliners since stretching to a record in February. But the

Mirror Group led the field with a 12p gain to 232p in busy trading. There was the usual talk of a bid, with Carlton Communications the favourite to

Standard, down
year ago, would be
candidate for SBC's a

DEREK PAIN

ent meet. would the Scottish

The feeling was

SG Warburg.
Unilever, the A

takeover taken its toll but the more perturbed

292p a group's pedestrian
clear can- outlook.

British Biotech had an uncomfortable session, retreating 58p to 2,380p, but **Cortecs International** rose 23p to 310p following what appeared to be

a significant step forward in its testing of an orally delivered

at 235p the shares shot to 300p in brisk trading. But another newcomer had a much more miserable time. Placed last week at 240p Avocet Mining fell a further 14p to 213p.

acquisition. Signet, the jeweller, gained a further 2.5p to

□ A Californian diamond mine, expected to become a top producer, should bring a sparkle to Waverley Mining. Shares of Diadem Resources,

them and the npsurge adds around 10p to its assets per

Share Price Data									
Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up to 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.									
Other details: Ex-Earnings is Ex-dividend as at a United Kingdom Securities & Exchange Board (UKSE) listing. Ex-dividend is Ex-dividend as at a United Kingdom Securities & Exchange Board (UKSE) listing. Ex-dividend is Ex-dividend as at a United Kingdom Securities & Exchange Board (UKSE) listing.									
For further details, see the full report on page 102.									
The Independent Index									
The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Stock Simply. It is based on 100 shares, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest share prices, call 0203 720123 (between 9.30 and 4.30 p.m. on weekdays). For assistance, call our helpline on 0203 720123 (9.30am - 5.00pm). Calls cost 30p per minute (cheap rate), and 40p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.									
Market Leaders: Top 20 volumes									
Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
BP	30,000,000	BT	10,000,000	Shell	7,000,000	National Grid	8,000,000	British Gas	10,000,000
General Electric	10,000,000	BT	10,000,000	Shell	7,000,000	National Grid	8,000,000	British Gas	10,000,000
British Gas	10,000,000	BT	10,000,000	Shell	7,000,000	National Grid	8,000,000	British Gas	10,000,000
British Gas	10,000,000	BT	10,000,000	Shell	7,000,000	National Grid	8,000,000	British Gas	10,000,000
FT-SE 100 index hour by hour									
Open 2782.35 up 15.10 11.00 2787.45 up 5.10 14.00 2787.45 up 5.10 16.00 2787.45 up 5.10									
09.00 2782.35 up 15.10 11.00 2787.45 up 5.10 14.00 2787.45 up 5.10 16.00 2787.45 up 5.10									
High Low Stock Price Chg Yld P/E									
2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35
2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35	2782.35
Retailers, Food									
ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00
ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00
Textiles & Apparel									
Next	100.00	Next	100.00	Next	100.00	Next	100.00	Next	100.00
Next	100.00	Next	100.00	Next	100.00	Next	100.00	Next	100.00
Retailers, General									
ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00
ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00
Support Services									
ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00
ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00	ASDA	100.00

Weight of the world hangs on the lucky Chancellor

Kenneth Clarke has earned himself a reputation as a good Chancellor of the Exchequer. And one of the marks of success in the office is the fact that he feels no great need to be doing something all the time. This lack of activism recognises an important truth about the UK economy: it depends far more on what happens in the rest of the world than what happens here.

The Government's dependence on external events to set the economy to rights has been partially recognised. A recent article by a Labour peer, Meghnad Desai, stimulated a debate about whether the Government will be able to cash in on an improvement in the state of the economy before the election. Thanks to windfalls such as natural gas and the building society shares, Lord Desai suggested, a consumer spending boom and housing market revival could replenish the electorate's reservoir of feel-good just in time to end the Conservatives' drought at the polls.

The question of whether Mr Clarke's famous luck will hold in the run-up to the election, however, depends on far wider events than these stimuli to consumers. The course of business cycles in the rest of the world will both influence growth here directly and set the limits to policy in the UK.

This balance can tilt either way - either a dream or a nightmare for a Chancellor hoping to retain office. For the US and the European economies are tugging in different directions. They are at different stages of their economic cycles, and the timing will be everything in their impact on Britain.

The US is pulling out of a tem-



ECONOMIC VIEW
DIANE COYLE

porary slowdown into what looks like an impressive new burst of recovery. The American jobs machine is working overtime, with an average of 206,000 new jobs a month created so far this year, compared with 142,000 a month towards the end of last year. Incomes and spending have risen, while survey evidence is turned around. The remaining weak spot is manufacturing industry.

Meanwhile, Europe's biggest economy is on the brink of recession. Yesterday's figures for German un-

employment and other recent indicators have confirmed expectations that GDP will be flat this year. Other Continental economies are slowing down along with their most important market. Although they are less ridden with gloom than Germany, high and lasting unemployment across the Continent symbolises its economic woes. Most forecasts predict a European recovery - but not yet.

A few twists in the world economy would turn the dream into a nightmare

employment and other recent indicators have confirmed expectations that GDP will be flat this year.

Other Continental economies are slowing down along with their most important market. Although they are less ridden with gloom than Germany, high and lasting unemployment across the Continent symbolises its economic woes. Most forecasts predict a European recovery - but not yet.

Mr Clarke's dream scenario will be realised if the US recovery is not too fast and the European slowdown not too severe. If US growth stays around the pace it has set in the first quarter of this year it will have reached the point above which Fed

er rates worked quickly. British exports to the rest of Europe would not be too depressed either.

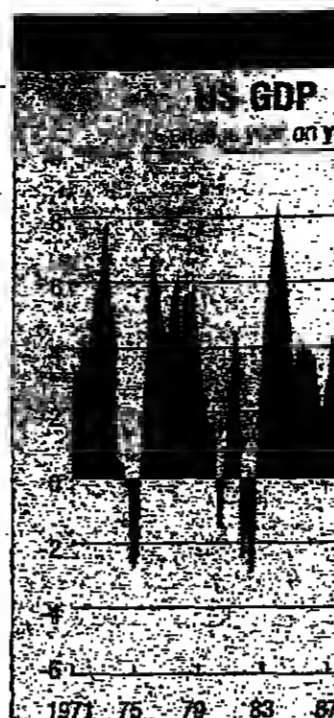
The growth outlook can be painted even brighter when other areas of the world are taken into account. Bullish economists at the US investment bank Morgan Stanley think world GDP growth will be nearly as strong this year as last, and could return next year to its fastest since the late 1980s boom. They predict continuing recovery in Japan, a swing out of recession in Latin America, and further rapid expansion in Asia outside Japan. This last area accounts for a bigger share of world GDP (23 per cent) than Europe (21 per cent) but by

The final 'if' in the dream scenario concerns inflation. If faster growth and lower interest rates later this year did not have any impact on inflation until after Britain's general election, Mr Clarke would be able to carry off for a few crucial months an extraordinary balancing act. He would be able to present growth near his 3 per cent target and inflation within spitting distance of the 2.5 per cent target. This would confound almost all of the economics profession and make the Chancellor look lucky on a visionary scale.

However, a few twists of timing and degree in the world economy would turn the dream into a nightmare. If the American economy accelerates to the point where the Fed feels forced to raise interest rates, and if the Bundesbank thinks recovery will come soon enough that it does not need to cut its rates, there would be pressure for an increase in Britain's base rate. Exports to the US - 13 per cent of the total last year - would perform well, but exports to the EU - 58 per cent of the total - would remain sluggish. Britain's recovery would be delayed.

Tighter monetary policy would become essential if two other things happened. One, inflation might head upwards early. Monetarists have pointed out that policy has loosened across the globe. Although the general level of commodity prices, a classic early inflationary warning signal, is lower than a year ago, food and energy prices are rising again. The Bank of England's UK-specific commodity index has started to climb and was up 3.5 per cent in the year to December. The oil price is at its highest since the Gulf War.

Secondly, there could be a Euro-exchange rate crisis brought on by



US & European growth



tensions over the creation of a single currency. The foreign exchange markets see sterling as a weak currency, prone to political risk, and the pound would dive along with the Italian lira and Spanish peseta.

So if the timing went wrong, the Chancellor would face the prospect of having to tighten policy at a time of sluggish growth - or admit that he had given up on his inflation target. (There would certainly be stern voices urging him not to sacrifice growth for the sake of shaving an extra percentage point or two off inflation.)

Which will it be, dream or nightmare for the Conservatives? The straw in the wind are pointing Mr Clarke's way. For every piece of bad news about the strength of the British economy, there is a counterbalancing piece of good news. This means that a decent recovery from the pause at the end of last year is under way.

Yet the pick-up is unlikely to be strong enough or happen soon enough to feed into higher inflation ahead of the election. The most pessimistic forecast for the target measure of inflation at the end of this

year - from the former 'wise man' Wynne Godley - puts it at only 3.3 per cent compared with the 2.5 per cent target. SG Warburg's economists have inflation rising to a still reasonably modest 4.2 per cent by the end of 1997.

So Mr Clarke could well go down in history as a lucky Chancellor as well as a good one. However, it is far from an odds-on bet that all will turn out for the best. It would take only small changes in the world economy for Mr Clarke to turn out - like Labour's last Chancellor, Denis Healey - to be good but unlucky.

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	15165	8-6	22-19	1000	—	—
Canada	20594	11-3	50-37	13561	2-1	2-0
Germany	22243	55-48	57-147	14987	29-26	80-78
France	77305	140-78	371-340	50578	64-4	84-54
Italy	22511	75-90	221-240	57170	70-92	84-92
Japan	16453	75-70	226-218	10849	45-44	336-33
ECU	12171	15-11	45-40	12460	7-8	23-25
Belgium	48722	12-9	34-29	30184	58-48	742-147
Denmark	37742	39-95	41-37	57880	80-40	175-125
Netherlands	23444	63-54	89-75	16763	32-29	96-91
Ireland	65986	9-5	25-30	12567	6-10	4-0
Norway	92389	18-64	329-323	64816	42-17	120-61
Spain	18039	29-48	117-134	12542	32-36	97-105
Sweden	10176	9-5	23-34	67003	98-123	260-300
Switzerland	18448	68-60	197-185	12165	38-35	111-105
Australia	19239	20-31	67-05	12677	39-21	54-55
Hong Kong	11725	30-61	224-70	77262	32-35	54-55
Malaysia	33278	3-0	4-0	22542	4-14	60-80
New Zealand	22244	43-57	133-156	14667	30-32	86-90
Saudi Arabia	4577	0-0	0-1	37505	2-7	9-14
Singapore	23371	0-0	0-0	14093	41-30	103-88

Other Spot Rates

Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1557	0.0982
Australia	15590	0.0549
Brazil	15008	0.0084
China	123535	0.0078
Egypt	62405	0.0005
Finland	7103	0.0054
Ghana	229194	0.0001
Greece	367278	0.0001
India	51710	0.0001
Kuwait	44554	0.0002

Forward rates quoted low to high are at a discount; add to spot rate. Dollar rates quoted as percentages; subtract from spot rate. For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 323 3933. Calls cost 30p per minute (cheap rate) 40p other times.

Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
3 month	5.00%	Prime	8.75%
6 month	5.00%	Discount	5.00%
1 year	5.00%	Fed Funds	5.25%
2 year	5.00%	10-Day Repo	7.00%
3 year	5.00%	30-Day Repo	7.00%
4 year	5.00%	90-Day Repo	7.00%
5 year	5.00%	180-Day Repo	7.00%

Bond Yields

Country	5yr	10yr	15yr	20yr
UK	6.00%	7.47%	8.04%	8.04%
US	5.4%	6.4%	5.9%	5.9%
Japan	6.4%	1.50%	1.1%	1.1%
Australia	6.1%	6.1%	6.1%	6.1%
Germany	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%
France	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%

Money Market Rates

Overnight	7 Day	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
UK	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%
US	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%
Japan	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%	5.4%

Tourist Rates

Country	£ Buys	£ Buys	£ Buys
Australia	15590	0.0549	0.0549
Canada	20594	0.0549	0.0549
France	77305	0.0549	0.0549
Germany	22243	0.0549	0.0549
Italy	22511	0.0549	0.0549
Japan	16453	0.0549	0.0549
US	15165	0.0549	0.0549

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open
Long GB	105-55	105-55	105-55
German Bund	105-55	105-55	105-55
US Treasury	105-55	105-55	105-55
Japanese Yen	105-55	105-55	105-55
Gold	105-55	105-55	105-55
Oil	105-55	105-55	105-55
Wheat	105-55	105-55	105-55
Corn	105-55	105-55	105-55
Soybeans	105-55	105-55	105-55
Live Cattle	105-55	105-55	105-55
Hog	105-55	105-55	105-55
Pork	105-55	105-55	105-55
Lean Ham	105-55	105-55	105-55
Short Hedges	105-55	105-55	105-55
Live Cattle	105-55	105-55	105-55
Hog	105-55	105-55	105-55
Pork	105-55	105-55	105-55
Lean Ham	105-55	105-55	105-55
Short Hedges	105-55	105-55	105-55

Liffe FT-SE Index Option

Chaps	54	6 1/4	5 3/4	6 1/4
West Chaps	54	5 3/4		
(Buy)			5 3/4	6 3/4
			5 1/2	5 1/2
Cap				

Rates

	£ Buys	£ E
(ars)	12850	7500
(ngs)	154500	2250
(cs)	454000	3610000

sport

60TH US MASTERS: Ryder Cup partners contemplate tough draw. Tim Glover assesses the challenge of Europe's finest in Augusta.

Faldo must face menace of the 'Wild Thing'

Had he been fit and well Jose-Maria Olazabal would have been a natural front runner in the betting for the Masters, but in his absence the burden of Europe's expectation falls on to the shoulders of the Ryder Cup partners, Colin Montgomerie and Nick Faldo.

The draw, however, has not been kind to either of them. Faldo, the champion in 1989 and 1990, goes out in the first round today shortly after high noon and it is less the timing that is disadvantageous than the man he is paired with: John Daly. On hearing the draw, it is fair to surmise that Faldo would have held his head in his hands and said something along the lines of: "You cannot be serious."

The exiled Englishman would probably have preferred to have been drawn with Jerry Courville Jr at around midnight.

There are two obvious drawbacks to being paired with the former "Wild Thing". One is that the outlandish Daly attracts huge galleries (there'll be plenty of noise and much whooping and a boisterous and the other is that off the tee the American will be considerably longer than Faldo.

Off the course the two personalities are also miles apart. The experience is more likely to deflect Faldo than Daly. Faldo has a considerable edge in terms of experience in negotiating Augusta National, but the 29-year-old Daly is younger, stronger and has the game, if not, perhaps, the temperament, to master the course.

Daly is worth a bet. When he won the US PGA Championship at Crooked Stick, Indiana, in 1991 the achievement was considered by most to be a flash in the pan. He was in the final round, got in at the last minute and proceeded to win it with prodigious driving and equally impressive putting. Thereafter his private life began to unravel like a cheap car: alcohol, wife-beater, road rage, brushes with the law etc. About the only thing not connected with Daly was mad cow disease.

Following a suspension by the US Tour, he gave up drinking and switched instead to smoking, gambling and eating junk food. The suspicion that his performance at Crooked Stick was some sort of accident, a one-off, was dispelled at St Andrews last summer when he won the Open Championship, taming the Old Course in gale force winds in the final round. Many pundits did not think it possible for Daly to win the Open, an achievement at St Andrews that was beyond Har-

ry Vardon and Tom Watson, who between them won 11 Opens.

Daly's record on the US Tour this year has been mediocre. He has not finished higher than 17th in seven starts although he had a tilt at two European Tour events, finishing joint 18th in the Johnnie Walker Classic and joint fifth in the Heineken Classic. More pertinently, though, is his record in the Masters. In four appearances (he was joint third three years ago) he has a stroke average of 72.88 and there is considerable room for improvement.

Today's tee-off times

At 9.30am BST, US unless stated. * denotes amateur

12.45 G. Sarason, B. Nelson, S. Snead (honorary starters)

13.00 G. Coody, marker

13.05 G. Brewer, D. Ford

13.15 T. Aaron, B. Casper

13.25 B. Taylor, T. Tye

13.35 P. Long, D. Galt (GB)

13.45 N. Lancelotti, K. Tipton

13.55 B. Byrnes, E. Dougherty

14.05 S. Ballentine (Sp), J. Maggart

14.15 T. Vite, D. A. Weidling

14.25 P. Jacobsen, P. Nobles (NZ)

14.30 J. Shuren, S. Faxon

14.35 M. McCumber, T. Henson

14.45 L. Jansen, N. Price (Zim)

14.55 B. Henniger, S. McCann

15.05 A. Palmer, B. Marucci

15.15 S. Long, M. Roe (GB)

15.25 J. Baker-Finch (Aus), H. Sutton

15.35 P. Mickelson, S. Torrance (GB)

15.45 T. Waldorf, S. Brudner

15.55 S. Hoch, P. Starkovska

16.00 R. Floyd, D. Frost (SA)

16.05 J. Gallagher Jr, B. Maylar

16.15 G. Player (GB), C. Weir

16.25 W. Austin, M. Brooks

16.35 B. Gasson, S. Eyles

16.45 I. Sims, C. Ross (NI)

16.55 S. Lyle (GB), K. Perry

17.05 M. Calavecchia, J. Huston

17.15 J. Hark, P. Goydon

17.25 T. Watson, S. Ellington (Aus)

17.35 B. Greshaw, T. Woods

17.45 N. Faldo (GB), J. Daly

17.55 S. Long, J. Courville Jr

18.05 J. Nicklaus, M. Campbell (NZ)

18.15 J. Hark, T. Lehman

18.25 C. Greshaw, S. Simpson

18.35 P. Couples, G. Sherry (GB)

18.45 C. Pavin, V. Singh (Ind)

18.55 P. Scharf, M. O'Leary

19.05 F. Zeller, G. Norman (Aus)

19.15 J. Woodman (GB), A. Oyle (GB)

19.25 C. Zeller, E. Roe (GB)

19.35 T. Leonard, D. Duval

19.45 T. Roberts, S. Hagishi (Japan)

19.55 D. Edwards, J. Furyk

In theory Augusta National and the Green Jacket seem tailor-made for Daly. Should he win the Masters it would give him the third leg of the four major championships and it would be a fair bet that for the fourth, the US Open, the US Golf Association would make the fairways as narrow as a shoelace and the rough as high as an elephant's eye.

Montgomerie, who is paired with Davis Love III, does not have an impressive record at Augusta National (joint 37th, joint 52nd, missed cut, joint 17th) but his general improvement year by year has taken him to second place in the Sony world rankings with only Greg Norman ahead of him. Norman

is one of only seven players to occupy the No 1 spot since the rankings were introduced in 1986. The others are Faldo, Seve Ballesteros, Ian Woosnam, Nick Price, Fred Couples and Bernhard Langer but Norman, the greatest money-winner in the game, is the only player never to have been out of the top 10.

Montgomerie has not won a major although he has gone agonisingly close, and Norman has just two to his name although it could be considerably more. On several occasions he has had one hand on the Green Jacket and his wardrobe remains incomplete without one. Monty is fancied on the basis of a flying start to the year with a victory in the Desert Classic in Dubai and second place to Couples in the TPC at Sawgrass. "I'm playing the best golf I've ever played," Monty said yesterday. Norman, who has missed his last two half-way cuts, will appreciate the fact that others are carrying the handicap of favouritism. As always, the outcome will be decided on the super-fast greens. "One of the things that has bothered me in the past has been my putting," Montgomerie said, "but I'm comfortable with it now. There are times when you've got to be very brave. The winner is the man who holes out particularly well and that's what I've got to do. I know that. It's quite a simple objective."

Scotland are well represented in Georgia for in addition to Montgomerie they have Sam Torrance, the runner-up to Monty in the Volvo Order of Merit last season, and Gordon Sherry, the amateur champion. Like Monty, Sherry, who is coached by Sam's father Bob, has been on a diet and has evaporated from 20st to 17st. Sherry is sporting a cap here which bears the initials K F C. Why, he was asked, are you representing Kentucky Fried Chicken? Sherry almost hit the roof of the clubhouse. "It was given to me," he pointed out firmly, "by Kilmarnock Football Club."

That is a marginal improvement on Sam's half marker which bears the inscription: "This is my f... spot." If Sam is in contention on Sunday the television broadcasters will have to employ a censor. Torrance plays with the left-handed Phil Mickelson, referred to affectionately by the Scotsman as "Leftie", just as the New Zealander Michael Campbell is described as "Soupie", and Sherry is partnered with another of the American favourites, Couples. As for Sherry's cap, it is possible to read, for Football Club or Fried Chicken, one Fred Couples.



Colin Montgomerie, practising at Augusta National yesterday, says he is 'as confident as I have ever been'

Photograph: Allsport

Monty takes pitch and putt course

The world No 2 is honing his short game for the long march towards his first major. Andy Farrell reports from Augusta

Colin Montgomerie has not always scored well at Augusta National, but he has always put an end to that. "It's a shame. I used to have some lovely junior club sandwiches at this golf club but I'm not allowed them anymore."

"Now I am eating a very light breakfast, then I have a salad and a one-fat dinner. I cut out anything that contains the word fried or fat. I have been in the States for three weeks and it is more difficult over here. The food here is more full of fat than at home. You have got to be disciplined and I have been since I have been here."

The European No 1 is now 40lbs lighter than at the beginning of the year. Now he is on the greens in the restaurant, he is seeking the same discipline on those out on the course. Firm, fast and severely sloping, they are far less palatable. "I would not like them any quicker or the undulations any steeper," Montgomerie said. "They are on the limit of being playable."

Montgomerie's performance on the greens has been the root

cause of his results in four previous US Masters. Last year, when he recorded his best finish of tied 17th, the Scot broke 70 for the first time. The second of his two 69s still contained four putts at the 14th.

"The one thing that has bothered me in the past here is the putting. There are occasions when you just have to be brave and hit the ball a bit harder, otherwise the ball won't hold its line and go in the hole. There are putts that need to be hit positively. You can't worry about the one coming back. If you do, you have already missed the first one."

Knowing that the greens will only get harder and faster by the weekend, Montgomerie has played just 27 holes in practice before today's first round, instead concentrating on chipping and putting. That aspect of his game has already been shown to be working well as he won the Dubai Classic and finished second in the US Play-

ers' Championship two weeks ago.

Having risen to No 2 in the world, behind Greg Norman, a major is Montgomerie's obvious priority. Golfers tend to subscribe to the view that the dues have to be paid first. Monty has

Hole	Yards	Par	Hole	Yards	Par
1	400	4	10	485	5
2	555	5	11	452	3
3	360	4	12	155	4
4	205	3	13	485	5
5	435	4	14	405	3
6	190	3	15	500	4
7	380	4	16	170	4
8	535	5	17	400	4
9	435	4	18	405	4

Out 3,465 38 In 3,460 38 Total 6,925

paid out a pretty mint: third in the '92 US Open, and lost playoffs for the '94 US Open and last year's USPGA at Riviera. "They always say you've got to lose one before you win one," he said. "I have had three real close calls. That is more than some have had be-

fore they have won. In major championships it is limiting the mistakes that counts. At Riviera I managed to birdie the last three holes to get into that play-off, and that's what I was able to take as a positive from that."

It is Monty's conviction that he is best suited to the US Open and USPGA, but that does not stop him denouncing suggestions, even if they were uttered by himself in the past, that he does not have the game for Augusta. His left-to-right fade should not suit the many holes that dogleg from right to left.

"That's pure myth. There is only one shot you need to book or draw and that's on the 13th. The rest of them, a straight shot is fine. One hole in particular suits my game and that is 18. I can close my eyes and hit it on the fairway there."

"This course is a matter of playing chess, working out your course management. Where do

we go? Where don't we go? When do we go for it? It's up to myself and my caddy to work it out. We know what to do now. It's just whether we are able to do that under the pressure and I think we are better equipped than ever before. I am fortunate in that I tend to play better when there is a lot of pressure."

One man who believes the 32-year-old Scot can win is Ely Callaway, whose clubs Montgomerie is hitting further and higher than at any other time. "He sent me a letter congratulating me on my second at the Players and the PS said you can win at Augusta. The can was underlined. That meant a lot to me."

It is just another factor in making Montgomerie "as confident as I have ever been". The only time he stumbled yesterday was when asked whether he had dreamed of donning a Green Jacket. Pause. Then: "Doesn't every golfer think of holding the Open claret jug or putting on a Green Jacket?" Few have as good a chance of doing so this week than Montgomerie.

FOUR WITH POTENTIAL TO BE A MASTER



Jay Haas
Born: St Louis
Age: 42
Turned professional in 1976. A man called Haas seems destined to win the Masters. Bob Healy, a former Masters champion, is his uncle and the man responsible for introducing Haas to golf. He put a gift on it and gave it to Haas who finished third in the first tournament he ever entered - the national Pee Wee championship. Played for the US in the 1975 Walker Cup and the Ryder Cup in 1983 and again last year. Haas has nine victories on the US Tour and has played in the Masters on 15 occasions. Finished joint third last year, has appeared in the top five on three occasions and once shot 64 here.



Ian Baker-Finch
Born: Nambour, Aus
Age: 35
Turned professional 1979. Baker-Finch won the Open Championship at Royal Birkdale in 1991 since when the only cut he has made has been while shaving. Actually, that's not true. In the Canon Challenge in Australia this year Baker-Finch got beyond the second round for the first time in 17 months, surprising everybody including himself. Conditioned to checking out of hotels on a Friday night, Baker-Finch did not have enough sleep to see him through to Sunday. Although he had no chance of winning the tournament, the crowd flocked to him during the final round and gave him a standing ovation. Returned normal service on the US Tour this season: played three, missed cuts three.



Gordon Sherry
Born: Kilmarnock
Age: 22
Is playing in his first Masters and will turn professional as the ink dries on his first contract next Monday. Sherry, at 5ft 5in and a wiry 17st, is probably the largest player ever to have appeared in the Masters. A student of biochemistry at Stirling University, he had the time of his life last year, winning the Amateur Championship at Holyake, finishing fourth in the Scottish Open at Carnoustie and joint 40th in the Open at St Andrews. Is getting wiser by the minute. As a party here on Monday evening he was approached by a woman who asked him: "Is everything about you in proportion to your size?" "No," Sherry replied, "I should be 8ft 6in."



David Gilford
Born: Crewe
Age: 30
Turned professional 1986. On the basis of finishing in the top 10 in the European Order of Merit, Gilford was invited to his first Masters last year when he came joint 24th, thus automatically gaining re-entry for Augusta. Had an outstanding amateur career, winning the English Amateur Championship in 1984 and the British Youth's Championship in 1986. A member of the victorious European Ryder Cup team at Oak Hill, Rochester, last September. One of the quietest players in golf, Gilford's hobby is tending a herd of Hereford cattle. Now his 40 animals but says that, because of the worries over BSE, they are virtually worthless.

Redgrave to retire after Atlanta

Rowing
MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Steven Redgrave plans to end his career after competing for an unprecedented fourth Olympic rowing title in Atlanta this summer.

Speaking at the launch of a Barclays Visa scheme to provide £500,000 worth of training camp support for Britain's Olympic and Paralympic athletes, the 34-year-old oarsman said: "I plan to retire after the

Olympics. I've been rowing now for 20 years. I am training hard, and if things go as planned in Atlanta I will be more than happy to walk away from the competitive side of the sport."

"I will probably get involved in coaching at some stage but not straight away. If you are coaching athletes and the thought is there that you could probably still beat them yourself it is not a good position to be in."

Matthew Pinsent, with whom Redgrave will attempt to retain the coxless pairs title they won

in Barcelona, plans to carry on after Atlanta. "I am about as sure that I want to carry on as Steve is sure that he wants to retire," he said. As they prepare for the international season, Redgrave and Pinsent have swapped places, with Redgrave taking over the bow. It thus falls to the 25-year-old Pinsent to do the talking in the boat from the more demanding position at stern - something with which he is not completely at ease. "I'm so out of breath now I can't say anything," he said.

SPORTS LETTERS WILL APPEAR IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

Davis Love III.
His 1st win at the Vth attempt: XVI/I.

TO WIN THE US MASTERS

Augusta. Starts today. Live coverage on BBC	
11/1 F. Couples	33/1 J. Daly
14/1 C. Montgomerie	33/1 J. Haas
14/1 G. Norman	33/1 S. Hoch
16/1 E. Els	33/1 L. Jansen
16/1 D. Love III	33/1 B. Langer
16/1 C. Pavin	33/1 M. O'Meara
18/1 N. Price	33/1 L. Roberts
18/1 N. Faldo	33/1 V. Singh
20/1 S. Elkington	40/1 M. Calavecchia
20/1 T. Lehman	40/1 D. Frost
20/1 P. Mickelson	40/1 J. Furyk
20/1 I. Woosnam	40/1 P. Stewart

EW one-quarter odds 4 places 1,2,3,4. Other prices on request. Non-starter - no bet.

FORECAST THE FIRST TWO HOME

'95 US Masters Again.	'95 US Open 1,2.	'95 Open Revisited.
B. Greshaw (50/1)	C. Pavin (18/1)	J. Daly (33/1)
D. Love III (16/1)	G. Norman (14/1)	C. Rocca (150/1)
Dual Forecast odds 420/1	Dual Forecast odds 125/1	Dual Forecast odds 2,000/1

All Dual Forecasts include correct order of finish. If more than two players involved in a play-off at home players, the complete winner, identified to have won the 2nd place. These prices may have changed since this page was printed. For the very latest prices, page Ladbrokes Teletext 656/7 (Ch4).

FOR INSTANT BETTING, FREEPHONE 0800 524 524

We advise correct order of finish to press. Not subject to fluctuation. Dead heat rules apply. Layoff rules included. *New total £10 maximum bet only. **11 to 10 odds to 100.

Ladbrokes telephone and golf rules apply.

Ladbrokes

For a flutter, Ladbrokes are favourite.

IF YOU ARE STILL
WITH ORANGE
WE RECOMMEND
YOU GET YOUR BILL
EXAMINED.

15

minutes maximum for

£17.63 on talk 15*

orange

32

MINUTES MAXIMUM FOR

£17.50 ON OCCASIONAL CALLER*

CELLNET

RING 0800 21 4000 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THE NET THAT SETS YOU FREE.



*Based on equivalent recommended tariffs. 32 min max of off-peak calls. Minutes reduce when peak-time calls are made. Teletext Securotel Cellular Radio.

APR 11 2015

SPORT

Clubs on brink of break with RFU

Rugby Union
STEVE BALE

Every bit as intransigent as the Rugby Football Union, England's major clubs are preparing to make the fateful decision to secede from their governing body. Relationships have broken down so completely that it would be no surprise if today's emergency board meeting in the City of London of their umbrella grouping, English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, came to this momentous conclusion.

The only hope then would be for the RFU president, Bill Bishop, notably absent from Tuesday's watershed Twickenham press briefing, to step in as a last-ditch mediator during the 24 days that would remain until the end of the season and EPRUC's departure became official.

Bishop, considerably more conciliatory than Cliff Brittle, the RFU executive chairman who has been leading the union's negotiating team, does not care to be remembered as the president under whose stewardship English rugby had a second great schism to follow that of rugby league 101 years ago.

On Tuesday the RFU announced its willingness to negotiate on a number of subsidiary matters but not the substantive ones concerning the administration of the professional club game, which begins with the end of the RFU moratorium on 6 May, and its financial aspects.

The clubs want - perhaps demand would be a better word - autonomous control of both but the RFU has declared them to be non-negotiable and is in effect challenging EPRUC, which represents the 20 clubs who make up the present First and Second Divisions, to do its worst. This is now likely. "People are incensed," Donald Kerr of Harlequins, EPRUC's chief executive, said yesterday.

It is not all gloom for the union, however. Brittle is trying to drive a wedge between the First Division clubs, who to-

gether hold a 76 per cent stake in EPRUC, and the Second Division, and it is by no means certain that all the clubs involved, including some in the First Division, will readily agree to the imminent schism.

Yesterday the RFU received support from Richmond, who already know they will be among the four clubs promoted from the Third Division - and so admitted to EPRUC. "As a founding club, Richmond supports the RFU in its role as controller of the game in England," Symon Elliott, the chief executive, said.

Since Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, is a former Richmond captain and chairman, it would have been peculiar had Elliott said otherwise, but his remarks were of special interest as Richmond are following the professional path as aggressively as anyone after the injection of £2.5m from a businessman. Yesterday they announced the signing of Adrian Davies and Andy Moore, the Cardiff half-backs.

Hallett is still trying to be optimistic. "There will be a bust-up but I don't believe it will become a breakaway," he said yesterday. However, the clubs have said all along - in direct contradiction of the RFU's insistence that broadcasters would deal only with Twickenham - that they have television and sponsorship deals in place to underwrite their own rebel competitions.

Meanwhile the RFU's insistence that divisional rugby continue as an essential part of producing a successful England team - but thereby removing club rugby from the programme for a financially critical period in autumn - is another apparently irreconcilable cause of division.

"Having played in divisional games and captained the South-west to a divisional championship, I know that divisional rugby has been a failure," John Hall, Bath's rugby director, said after a meeting of the club's management board. "Top-flight" rugby is the answer, not divisions. Richmond money talks, page 27

Piggott reluctant to let go of the reins



Some things on Newmarket's timeless Heath never change, writes Sue Montgomery. Derby fancies may come and go, but yesterday morning the enduring modern symbol of the world's most famous race, Lester Piggott, was out at dawn doing what he does best. Piggott, aged 60, may have retired from competitive race-riding, but horses are in his blood, and the old maestro is now happy to turn the clock back nearly half a century to when he was an anonymous schoolboy riding exercise.

Yesterday morning Piggott (pictured above, on the far side) was on board Prince Of Andros, trained at Sefton Lodge by David Loder. Piggott, though still lean and spare, is more relaxed than he has ever been, and is content to pass on his unsurpassed knowledge to one of the emerging talents of the racing industry. Loder, aged 32, was born a decade before Piggott first rode to fame with his first Classic victory on Never Say Die in the 1954 Derby.

Piggott last rode competitively in Britain in 1994 and his wife, Susan, has now given up training. However, Piggott still lives in Newmarket and this spring he has been seen regularly on the Heath riding out for Loder.

This is always an important time of the year for the leading trainers on the Flat. The season's first three Classics all take place within the next two months and nearly all the leading contenders will be showing their paces in the coming weeks. Many will be on public view for the first time this season at Newmarket's Craven meeting next week, as will the country's leading jockeys. The most famous of them all, however, will not be seen.

Photograph: Robert Hallam/Racing, page 25

Olympic warm-up event in jeopardy

Hockey

BILL COLWILL
reports from Atlanta

A major pre-Olympic tournament involving some of the world's leading hockey nations is under threat because the facilities here are incomplete. With less than 100 days to go to the start of the games, the practice pitches are not ready and the competition pitch is unavailable - which is an embarrassment for the host city.

Great Britain, Pakistan, India, Argentina and South Korea have travelled here to join the Six Nations Pre-Olympic tournament, which is scheduled to start today on what is supposed to be the Olympic practice pitch.

The problems started when the two artificial grass pitches being prepared for the Games were found to be unsatisfactory when they were completed last summer, and were dug up. There were delays in starting the new construction work and although the pitch at the 15,000-seat Morris Brown Stadium, where this week's tournament should have taken place, has been completed, the stadium cannot yet be used by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games because of contractual difficulties with the constructors.

Furthermore, the main pitch at the Clark Atlanta University Ground, the practice venue, has still not been laid - the site yesterday resembled a concrete car park. A disappointed and frustrated David Whittle, the British team manager, said: "We have come all the way here for an elite tournament and we need to play quality hockey for our development and selection purposes, but in no way am I prepared to jeopardise the safety of Olympic athletes without involving the players themselves. We will see what the practice brings forth."

Whittle has tried to persuade the US Field Hockey Association to switch the event to California, with the participating countries meeting some of the costs. This was ruled out as being logistically and financially unacceptable.

Eric Donegan, the Canadian Tournament Director, who first became aware of the problems less than two weeks ago, said: "It is all less than perfect but I'm hoping that we can keep the tournament on. A lot of people have come a long way. My aim is to maintain an official competition."

A spokesman for the USFHA, Marc Whitney, said how disappointed it was that Morris Brown was unavailable to test the Olympic facilities. He insisted it was not for lack of effort. It is, however, hard to believe in this city in transition - where helicopters have been hovering low to dry out building sites and where Billy Payne, the chairman of ACOG, claims that 50 years of improvements in public works have been crammed into the space of a couple of years - that greater effort and foresight could not have prevented this unfortunate situation.

Leeds chairman Silver retires

Football
RUPERT METCALF

The possible demise of Leeds United's manager has been distracting football's chattering classes for much of the season. Yesterday, however, it was not Howard Wilkinson who left Elland Road, but the Yorkshire club's chairman, Leslie Silver.

The 71-year-old Silver, after 14 years as chairman, retired from the Leeds board on medical grounds, with the managing director, Bill Fotherby, assuming temporary control. The announcement follows a run of poor results which has caused unrest among supporters, but Silver insisted his decision was made purely for health reasons.

"I am leaving the board altogether because I have been advised by medical experts to slow

down," Silver said. "I had a bit of a heart problem a year or so ago and when I had another check recently I was advised to take things easy." He will retain his majority shareholding in the club for the time being.

Silver joined the board in April 1981 and, after installing Wilkinson as the manager seven years later, was a major force behind the club's progress to the League title in 1992. In recent years, though, success has been elusive.

Down the road at Huddersfield Town, their 25-year-old striker Craig Whittington faces the sack after being found guilty of misconduct yesterday by the Football Association. He has been banned from the game until 1 November after being caught using cannabis twice within 10 months by the FA's anti-drugs unit.

Whittington claimed he had not knowingly taken the drug on either occasion. The first time, in March 1995, he believed he may have eaten cakes laced with cannabis at a party and then, in January this year, he claimed to have taken the drug unwittingly when smoking strangers' cigarettes at a New Year's Eve party. A Leyton Orient player, Roger Stanislaus, was sacked by his club earlier this season after testing positive for cocaine.

Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, left out four veterans - Neville Southall, Ian Rush, Mark Hughes and David Phillips - when he named his squad for the friendly in Switzerland on 24 April. Wrexham's Andy Marriott and Tranmere's Danny Coyne will contest Southall's goalkeeping jersey. Ryan Giggs has also been left out due to club commitments.

Northern Ireland, who face Sweden in Belfast on the same night, have rested their former captain, Alan McDonald of Queen's Park Rangers.

Plymouth Argyle and Plymouth City Council are to unveil plans for a new £25m stadium today. The 23,000 capacity all-seater construction is to be built on land near Argyle's Home Park ground in Central Park, and will be similar to the Alfred McAlpine Stadium in Huddersfield.

International squads, Sporting Digest, page 27

'Put Botham in charge'

Cricket

Ian Botham should be given total responsibility for knocking the England team back into shape, according to Allan Lamb.

The former Test batsman believes Botham and Graham Gooch are the best candidates to join Ray Illingworth's panel of selectors, but he said yesterday: "I think the situation we have got into is farcical. Ily has stood down as supreme, so we need to replace him with someone else. Instead, we are going back to the old system of a coach and a chairman of selectors and I think that's wrong."

"One man should be in charge and he should pick the selectors he wants. I would say to Ian Botham 'go and sort it out. We'll pay you to get English cricket right'."

"If he cocks up, then you get someone else. But it's no use sit-

ting on the fence."

Botham is one of eight men standing for two vacancies in the selection panel with counties due to vote next week.

Test and County Cricket Board officials have expressed grave doubts over Botham's nomination because of his extensive media commitments, while some people believe that Gooch - another former England captain - would not be able to devote enough time to the job because he is still playing for Essex.

Lamb could not understand where the difficulty might lie. "I can't see where there's going to be a problem. These are just the sort of people who should be involved. It's time to get younger men in."

According to Lamb, however, the best solution is a selector person to replace Illingworth. "Ian would have to give up his media work to do it, but that wouldn't be a problem if we paid the right money for the job," he said.

"As it is, David Lloyd faces a mammoth job as coach and if I was Ily I would stand down altogether if I wasn't allowed to pick my own selectors."

Lamb, meanwhile, has not entirely abandoned hope of playing one more season for Northamptonshire, but he admitted the odds were "heavily against" that happening because of a forthcoming book and his refusal to have the manuscript vetted by Lords ahead of publication.

Lamb is guaranteed one match this summer, however. He will lead an international team against Robin Smith's England XI at Highclere, Hampshire, on 16 July.

Paul Adams, South Africa's exciting spinner, has been invited to turn out for Lamb's side, along with a number of established internationals, like Courtney Walsh and Aravinda de Silva. Smith's team is expected to include Mike Atherton, Graeme Hick and Dominic Cork.



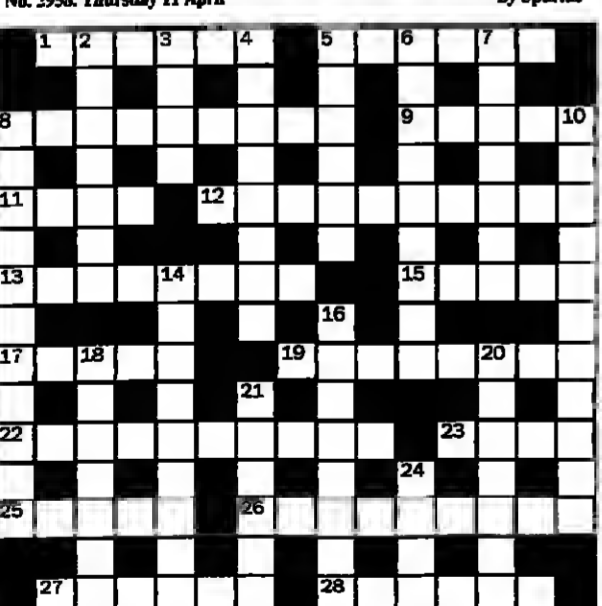
With haircuts like this, the football had to be good.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Stuck on a word?

Find another in the Franklin Pocket Thesaurus.

No. 2958, Thursday 11 April By Spurrus Wednesday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- Way chief appears to have a certain formality (6)
 - Parrot-fancier gets second prize (6)
 - Projectile - large one's found in sea (9)
 - Expect it's a carol singer (5)
 - British having trouble with security (4)
 - Flinging weapon accounting for group of worthy citizens' (6, 4)
 - Structure whereby a region's developed (8)
 - Player can be released from contract, ordinarily (5)
 - Student in Russia is dim (5)
 - Philosophical Genevan who'd be hard pressed to arouse us? (8)
 - Bear verbatim interpretation if shortened or cut? (10)
 - Type of pastry, one used in Florence briefly (4)
 - Play doctor and nurse endlessly (5)
 - Tara made by skilled man (9)
 - Burlesque in which nudes will perform before British (4-2)
 - Ceremony associated with English degree (6)

DOWN

- Being indiscreet can be effective (7)

THE FRANKLIN CROSSWORD Make the longest word you can from GROENWIT Saturday's Scrabble: THESPAIRUS

Win a Franklin Pocket Thesaurus worth over £25

CALL 0891 311 017

To enter, phone 0891 311 017 before midnight with the answers to the first three solutions across and down. Leave your answers, your name, address and daytime telephone. Winners will be selected from all correct entries received. No cash alternative. Normal Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final. Winners names can be obtained by sending an SAE to Franklin Independent Crossword, Windmill Business Village, Brooklands Close, Sunbury TW16 7DY. Calls cost 30p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute all other times.

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford

Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 0800 916609.

Thursday 11 April 1996 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office